RG104 Entry 216

Volume 10 (with index)

January 1, 1853 – December 31, 1853

Letters sent and received by the Secretary of the Treasury relating to Branch Mints.

Documents are in rough chronological order but are not separated by Branch Mint facility or subject.

Blank sheets and routine endorsements have been omitted. Annotations and addenda sheets have been digitized as they appear in the originals. Many pages are obscured by a close binding.

Some documents might duplicate those in RG104 Entry 1 but no specific identification has been attempted.

RG 104 RECORDS OF THE BUREAU OF
THE MINT

Records of the Office of the
Secretary of the Treasury

LETTERS RECEIVED FROM BRANCH
MINTS ("V" SERIES), 1834-1873

Vol. 10 of 29

NC-152, Entry 216

RG 104 RECORDS OF THE BUREAU OF
THE MINT

Records of the Office of the
Secretary of the Treasury

LETTERS RECEIVED FROM BRANCH
MINTS ("V" SERIES), 1834-1873

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December 1853

U. S. Mint &
Branches 1853

95,000.
70000
55,000
,000
Total Value
$ c
4,593,869.96

Silver Coinage

Date	Dollars Ps	Half dollars Ps	Qr Dollars Ps	Dimes Ps	½ dimes Ps	Trimes Ps	Total Value $	c
December	7.110	448,700	268,000	3,638000	5,04000	....	$914,260	00

Copper Coinage

Cents.	Ps 1,531,289	$ 15,312.89
Half Cents	37.114	185.57
	Total value	$ 15.498.46.

Recapitulation

Gold Coinage	$ 4.593.869.96
Silver Coinage	914 260.00
Copper C...	

Deposites and Coinage
at the Mint of the United States at Philadelphia in December 1853

Gold Bullion Deposited

From California	$ 4.395.000.
" Other sources.	50.000
Total.	$ 4.445.000

Silver Bullion purchased & deposited

From various sources.	$ 160,000

Gold Coinage

Date	Double Eagles Ps	Eagles Ps	Half Eagles Ps	Qr Eagles Ps	Dollars Ps	Bars value		Total Value $	cts
cember.	31,159	35,063	18656	145,124	241.672	2,922,297	96	4,593,869.	96

Silver Coinage

Date	Dollars Ps	Half dollars Ps	Qr Dollars Ps	Dimes Ps	½ dimes Ps	Trimes Ps	Total Value $	cts
December	7.110	448,700	268,000	3,638000	5,04000	....	$ 914,260	00

Copper Coinage

Cents.	Ps 1,531,289	$ 15,312.89
Half Cents	37.114	185.57
	Total value	$ 15.498.46.

Recapitulation

Gold Coinage	$ 4.593.869.96	
Silver Coinage	914 260.00	
Copper Coinage	15.498.46	$ 5,523,628.42

over

Mint of the United States.
Philada. June 9, 1853.

Sir.

In compliance with the request contained in your favors of the 30th ultº and 4th inst, I have directed the Treasurer to furnish silver coins to the offices therein named. They will be forwarded to day per Messrs Adams & Co's Express subject to the same regulations which were adopted in regard to the distribution of the 3 cent pieces.

The amount is as follows:

Treasury at	Washington	$2,000.	one half in 25 cts ½ in dimes
"	Boston	2,000	" " "
"	New York	3,000	" " "
"	Charleston	1,000	" " "
"	St. Louis	1,000	" " "
Depositories,	Baltimore	2,000	" " "
"	Norfolk	1,000	" " "
"	Savannah	1,000	" " "
	Total	$ 12,000	

This amount is as much as can be furnished at present. I will direct the sending forward of further sums when the deliveries of coin to the Treasury of the Mint will warrant it. I would be glad to have your opinion as to the amount necessary to meet the wants of the several offices above named. Hereafter the Office at St. Louis may be supplied from the Branch Mint at New Orleans, to accomplish which I will give the Superintendent the necessary instructions.

I have the honor to be
With great respect
Your obt servant,

James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City.

RG104 E-216 Vol 10

Mint of the United States
Philada. 11 Jan 1853

ir,

In reply to your letter of yesterday I have to re-et that the Branch Mint Reports for December have ot yet come to hand, though daily expected. The Coinage these Mints to 30 Nov: was as follows

	Gold	Silver	Total
w Orleans	$4,180,000	$144,000	$4,324,000
arlotte	356,849		356,849
hlonega	413,981		413,981
:	4,950,830	144,000	5,094,830

timating for December at the ratio of former months, we ay assume the coinage ~~at New~~ to have been, at New Orleans, ld $380,000 silver $13,091. total $393,091; at Charlotte, gold, 32,441 at Dahlonega, gold $37,635.

At this Mint the coinage of 1852 was as follows: ld $51,505,638.50 silver $847,410. Copper $50,620.94 Total $52403669.44 umber of pieces 32,612,949

very respectfully

Geo N Eckert
Director

m. L. Hodge Esq
st. Secretary

Mint of the United States,
Philada. 11 Jany 1853

ir,

On the 28th. ult. I had the honor to request the
residents approval of the appointment of Assistants
the Assayer & Melter & Refiner of the Mint. I now have
e honor to ask that an assistant to the Chief Coiner of
e Mint may also be authorised, at the same salary and
curity as were recommended for the assistants of the for-
er officers. I can not better present the reasons for such
appointment than by enclosing the letter of the Chief
iner, in which I entirely concur.

Should the assistant now recommended be allowed by
e President, I would respectfully nominate for the office
. Geo. W. Hall, now in the virtual performance of the
ties.

Very respectfully
your obdt. Servt.
Geo N Eckert
Director

n. Thomas Corwin
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington.

Director of the Mint
Philadelphia

Abstract of the Monthly returns of the Amount of Gold assayed by Moffat & Co and Curtis, Perry & Ward, under the Supervision of Augustus Humbert, U.S. Assayer at S. Francisco

Time	Tens	Twenties	Fifties	Five Hundreds	Thousands	Bars	Total
1851							
February			187.671 26	10.849 04	10.713 96		209.234 26
larch			343.069 91				343.069 91
April			876.239 95				876.239 95
lay			222.228 66				222.228 66
une			592.051 64				592.051 64
uly			1.222.022 39				1.222.022 39
August			1.416.982 77				1.416.982 77
eptember			1.865.209 12				1.865.209 12
ctober			1.969.079 07				1.969.079 07
November			945.701 61				945.701 61
ecember			487.516 76				487.516 76
1852							
January			432.998 71				432.998 71
Febru: to 16:	17.577 33		166.959 47				184.536 80
y: to 29	87.983 60		228.500 08				316.483 68
March	77.430 47	158.922 40	749.461 05				985.813 92
April	262.165 81	13.892 43	1.034.614 61				1.310.672 85
May	200.650 34		681.438 88				882.089 22

uly			1.222.022 39				1.222.022 39
August			1.416.982 77				1.416.982 77
eptember			1.865.209 12				1.865.209 12
ctober			1.969.079 07				1.969.079 07
ovember			945.701 61				945.701 61
ecember			487.576 76				487.576 76
185							
anuary			432.998 71				432.998 71
ebr: to 16:	17.597 33		166.959 47				184.556 80
Febry: to 29	87.983 60		228.500 08				316.483 68
March	77.430 47	158.922 40	749.461 05				985.813 92
April	262.165 81	13.892 43	1.034.614 61				1.310.672 85
May	200.650 34		681.438 88				882.089 22
June	227.399 11		936.187 70				1.163.586 81
July	112.432 73		763.078 87			326.270 98	1.201.782 58
August	138.999 55		784.732 34			326.181 25	1.249.913 14
September	99.077 34		1.287.780 19			294.341 82	1.681.199 35
October	294.252 54		1.506.496 99			300.275 21	2.101.024 74
*	1.517.988 82	172.814 83	18.700.022 03	10.849 04	10.713 96	1.247.069 26	21.659.457 94
November	235.424 21		631.924 02			353.053 40	1.220.401 63
	1.753.413 03	172.814 83	19.331.946 05	10.849 04	10.713 96	1.600.122 66	22.879.859 57
December	62.498 51		325.394 35			331.999 66	719.892 52
	1815.911 54	172.817 83	19.657.340 40	10.849 04	10.713 96	1.932.122 32	23.599.752 09

* In the Copy which was sent to the Senate the returns of November & Decem 1852 were not included not having been received in time

Jany 15 1853

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia 21 Jan 1853

r,

I have the honor to request that you will call e attention of the President to the necessity of appoin special Commissioners to attend the annual assay, hich is to be held at the Mint on the second Monday, February next (fourteenth prox:), in accordance with e 32d section of the Mint Act of Jan. 18, 1837.

very respectfully
your obd't serv't
Geo N Eckert
Director

n. Thomas Corwin
Secy of the Treasury
Washington.

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia 27 Jan 1853.

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose a copy of my lett-
r to the Department requested in your communi-
ation of the 24th. inst.

The documents to be furnished in reply to
our letter of the 23d. are being copied, and will
e forwarded with the least possible delay.

Very respectfully
Your obt. Servt
Geo N Eckert
Director

on. Thomas Corwin,
Secy of Treasury.

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia 27 Jan. 1853.

ir,

I have the honor to acknowledge your communication
the 24th in relation to the proposed issue of an ingot or
isk of refined gold from the Mint.

The suggestion of the Department, that the issue should
of the value of exactly One thousand dollars, I had already
ad under consideration; but the difficulties which present-
themselves appeared to me insuperable, at least without
gislation.

The law, in defining what gold is equivalent to a dollar,
rescribes certain proportions, viz. 9 parts gold, one part alloy
which the silver must not exceed one half. But if the gold
in any different proportion we are not, as I think, entitled
say what it is worth. Suppose we made the disk to weigh
. 48.375 at 99° fine; this would contain the same amount of fine
ld as $1000 in coin, and it might be ~~say~~ inferred that
uch a value could be properly & legally stamped upon
. Should this be done, however, and the gold be sub-
quently returned to the Mint for coinage, it would be
cessary for us to alloy it with copper down to 900 fine,
d to this end we have a right, & are bound, to charge
e depositor with the expense of the copper so used; so
at, in point of fact, his gold is not worth at the
int $1000. by reason of the charges imposed upon it.
nasmuch, however, as the cost of copper is after all but
small item, it might be borne by the Mint, and the
fficulty thus arising avoided. But, although by pres-

Mint of the United States
Philadª 27 Jan 1853.

ir,

I have the honor to acknowledge your letter
yesterday.

You state that the President suggests that the nds of Messrs. Taylor & Mason should be of the me amount as those of their respective principals 0,000). It strikes me the amount is excessive, and may ut the parties to some difficulty, as their acquaintance not among the wealthy. I still think that the amount ven by the clerks is sufficient, and do not see that y greater responsibility is imposed upon the assistants an the clerks. The clerk who *receives* all the bullion, d he who *pays* all the coin cannot be said to have s responsibility than assistants who supervise its manacture by workmen, and as to the assistant assayer e has no bullion in his custody, except a few assay ps.

The compensation of the gentlemen referred to (and Mr. Hall, whose appointment of Assistant Coiner I hope ill not be overlooked) has been, until the commencement of this year $2. per diem. Since the 1st Jany I have ised their wages to $2.50. — Very respectfully

Geo N Eckert
Director

on. Thos. Corwin
cy of the Treasy

per

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia 27 Jan 1853.

r,

In reply to a letter & correspondence which I had the
nor to enclose on the 28th. of November last, I was informed
the Department, in a communication of the succeeding day
at the course of the Mint in paying in gold coins for the
ver parted from gold bullion was approved.

After the arguments already presented by me in justifica-
n of the course thus approved, and which were conclusive
my own mind as they were, it appears, satisfactory to the
partment, you will no doubt be surprised at my again re-
ring to this subject, and particularly since my object in
doing is to request a reconsideration of your decision, in-
enced perhaps by the opinions which I had myself
esented.

In fact, upon a further consideration of this subject, and
inquiry into former usages of the Mint, I am satisfied that
err in paying for separated metal in coin similar to the
parent species of bullion deposited. The whole argument
favor of such a course you have already before you, and
so some of the arguments against it, in the letters of Mr. Tiles-
n, of the Phenix Bank, New York. Without, therefore, pretend-
 to go over the whole ground I will merely present two
oints for your consideration.

1. I find, upon inquiry, that anterior to July 1, 1849,
was the custom to issue separate warrants for parted met-
l, and to pay the depositor in coins of the metal thus part-
. Precedent therefore is against the construction we now place

ut Law. On arranging, at the time referred to a new form of accounts, and
entries made necessary by the increasing receipts
California, the preparation of a separate warrant for
nted metal was dispensed with (by authority from the
partment) and as the total aggregate yield of the de-
osit was paid in one amount, and no preference of
e coin over another was expressed, the convenience of
e parties was subserved by confining the payment of
lvery gold deposits altogether to gold coins, and of goldy
lver deposits to silver coins. It does not, therefore, appear
have been adopted as a rule of right but as one of convenience;
d as it is inconvenient to depositors to be now paid alto-
ther in one coin, they may very properly ask a return to
eir ancient privileges.

2. If we pay for silver parted in gold coins only, we must
be consistent pay for gold parted from silver, in silver
ins. It would be easy, under such a usage, for bullion
ney to melt a small quantity of gold with silver, and re-
uiring the whole payment in silver coins make as great
ofit by selling such coins at a premium, and finally (if
e operation were continued long enough) to inflict upon
s an enormous expense in the purchase of silver to meet such
ayments. For example 200 oz gold (worth over $4000) mixed
th 800 oz silver (worth over $1000) would appear silvery and be
ered as a silver deposit. If paid for in $5000 silver coins,
e depositor would gain (from the Mint) a premium on $4000 of
lver, say $160.-! And this operation could be carried on to an en-
mous mischief.— I trust, therefore, that you will approve
my payment, of metal parted, in coin of the same species.

Very respectfully
Geo N Eckert
Director

L. Hodge Esq
st. Secy of Treasy

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia 29 Jan. 1853

Sir,

I have the honor herewith to enclose papers called for in your communication of the 23d. ult, and also some others which appeared to me important in the course of my investigations in relation to the charges against Mr. Franklin Peale, Chief Coiner of the Mint. The oral testimony called for I have not sent for the following reasons.

In conducting my investigations I assumed, and so informed the gentleman (Dr McCulloh) who brought the charges, that the enquiry by me was to be administrative merely; that it was to be solely for the satisfaction of my own mind. I assumed that all the Department desired, in that stage of the investigation, was to procure the opinion of the Chief Officer of the Mint, which was the more likely to be unbiassed inasmuch as he had been but lately appointed to his post, and had therefore no prejudices by acquaintanceship, or long official intercourse, in favor of the individual impeached. My object, therefore, was not to collect testimony in a form fitted to convince others, but only to satisfy my own mind. In my examinations of individuals I was influenced, in the opinions I deduced from them, more by the general impression left on my mind at the time than by any written memoranda which I may have preserved of such testimony. Indeed, in some cases I have drawn my opinions from facts & statements of which I have no written record. Besides, if

I had a complete record, in writing, of all the evidence I received on the subject, I do not think it would be just in me to offer it to scrutiny by third parties, as the testimony was entirely exparte, the witnesses (with one exception) those named by the accusing party, and no witnesses asked for nor offered by the accused party, who was in fact, and to this day is, ignorant that such examination was made, and had therefore no opportunity of cross-examination.

If the Department is dissatisfied that I should have simply reported my opinions, without presenting the grounds or testimony on which I based them, while I should sincerely regret to have involved it in trouble on this account, I can see no just course of procedure except to order a legal commission to take testimony in a legal form. I have some confidence in my power to arrive at truth after my own methods, but feel myself incompetent to pursue such an inquiry in that legal method which alone could present this case in a fit form ~~for~~ to enable the Department or the public at large to elicit the truth for themselves.

I have seen, I may add, no cause whatever to modify the opinions stated by me in my letter of the 13th of July last except that, by longer official connection with Mr. Peale, I have had my estimate of his abilities & eminent fitness for the position he now occupies very greatly enhanced.

very respectfully
your obt servt

Geo N Eckert
Director

Hon. Thomas Corwin
Secy of the Treasy
Washington.

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia 12 ~~Feb~~ March 1853.

Sir,

On the 26th ult., I had the honor to address the Department in reference to the adoption of some plan for procuring silver bullion, at the Mint, for coinage into the new silver coins authorised by the act passed Feb. 21, 1853. No reply having yet been received, and the time at which that act goes into force having been fixed for the first prox., by the 7th section of the Deficiency Bill, I again recur to the subject.

In partial explanation of the suggestions of my letter above referred to I may state that it is the opinion of many well informed persons, that notwithstanding there is a very small amount of silver in circulation, there is a considerable quantity hoarded away by banks and individuals, which would be brought to light if it could, not only be sold at the current premium, but also replaced by silver coin of the same nominal value.

Should this be so, the questions to be decided are as to the manner in which the purchases by the Mint shall be made, and the price which shall be offered.

The usual method of selling silver is by tale, with a premium added proportioned to its enhanced value, above gold coin, in the market. For the purposes of the Mint this is objectionable. When coin is much worn, a premium which might be fair enough when in London. That is the great bullion market of the world, whither a great part of the silver purchased in our market has, of late years, been destined. I can see no sufficient reason why bullion should be ever held at a ~~far~~ higher value here than there, although latterly it has been slightly enhanced among us, above the London rate. I assume that this is only a temporary effect, and therefore propose the London rate as our basis.

From Jany 1 to the latest advices, the average price of Mexican dollars in London was 4s 11 3/4d per ounce; this is a small fraction less than $1.21, estimating the pound sterling at $4.86 6/10, though ~~it~~ that is an extreme limit of valuation. The price named corresponds to a premium here of 4 percent on new half dollars. The standard of U.S. silver, francs, and S. American dollars corresponding, very nearly, to that of Mexican, of course the same price per ounce may be offered for them.

With your permission, I therefore propose to instruct the Treasurer of the Mint to issue an advertisement in the following form:

—The Treasurer of the Mint gives notice that he is prepared to make purchases of silver coin and bullion, delivered at the Mint, on the following terms, viz.

For dollars of Spain, Mexico, Peru, Bolivia, Chili and Brazil (restamped;) for francs; for United States silver coins, other than the three cent, the ice paid will be $1.21 an ounce gross.

For thalers of Sweden and the Northern States
Germany, $1.01 an ounce.

For silver in bars, $1.21 for each ounce at
tandard fineness ($\frac{9}{10}$ths) as determined on assay
t the Mint

These prices exceed the latest London quota-
tions for Silver.

The payment will be made in gold coins,
r in silver coins of new emission, when ready, for delivery at the option
the seller. Parties furnishing silver to the Mint
ccording to the terms of this notice, will receive a pre-
rence, in exchanges for the new silver coin, according
o the order of priority of their sales to the Mint.

It is expected that an emission of new quar-
ter dollars will be made early in April, and pie-
ces of the other denominations not long after.

The prices herein fixed will continue until
further public notice.

— — — Treasurer.

By the 7th Section of the Deficiency Bill, you
re authorised to fix the devices of the new sil-
ver coin authorised by the act of Feb. 21. It is cer-
tainly desirable, in many respects, that new
devices for that coinage should ultimately be
ntroduced; but the very short period which
remains to the time fixed for the act to go into
peration, and the extreme impatience of the com-
munity to receive silver change, seem to me to for-

d, at this time, any further alteration of the evices than will distinguish the new from the ed coinage. Some slight modifications of the obverse and reverse &c of our present dies have, therefore, been ordered by me, not impairing the general ffect, but sufficiently discriminative to be readily marked by the eye. On the reverse of the half, and quarter Dollar, a glory (technically called) or a circle of rays will be placed above or behind the eagle; n the obverse, a modification of the date will be made, by inserting an ornament on each side. For the dime & half-dime no other change than the lastmentioned is proposed.

I must press upon you the importance of an early reply to so much of this communication as relates to the purchase of silver. I should be pleased also to learn whether you think any further change in the devices, than such as I have mentioned, indispensable at the present time.

Very respectfully
Your obd't Serv't
Geo N Eckert
Director

Hon. James Guthrie,
Sec'y of the Treasury.

Copy.

Branch Mint U.S. New Orleans.
January 15th 1853.

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose, herewith copy of an estimate of the amount required for the ordinary expenses of this mint for the first quarter of 1853. From the following appropriations — Viz.

Salaries of Officers and Clerks.	$ 4325.00
Wages of Workmen	8375.00
Incidental & Contingent expenses	12600.00
New Machinery	5000.00
Dollars.	30,300. "

I respectfully request that you will issue your Warrant as usual in favor of Wm DeBuys Treasurer for the amount, say, Thirty thousand three hundred dollars.

With high Consideration
Your Very obedt Servant
Signed R. M. McAlpin
Superintendt

Hon Thomas Corwin
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington:
D.C.

Mint of the United States
Philada 14 Feb. 1852

Sir,

In your note of the 12th to which I replied yesterday, you stated that the *Coiner* of the New Orleans Branch Mint was deceased. I have just received a despatch ~~that~~ dated Feb. 10, that Dr. Hort the *Assayer* died on the 9th. I suppose, therefore, that your note was in error as to the officer.

Of course the remarks made by me as to the qualifications required for a *Coiner* are inapplicable to the appointment of an *Assayer*.

The Supt. in his despatch states that he has recommended the *temporary* appointment of Mr. Millsborough, the Assistant. That gentleman may, for aught I know, be perfectly qualified. I feel it proper, however, to state that although he may be termed *Assistant*, in the parlance of that Mint, he has never held the office under the terms contemplated by law, which require nomination to the President, approval, & bonds. He is in short technically a workman not an officer. In stating this I mean nothing in the least derogatory to Mr. Millsbrough, who may be thoroughly suited to the vacant office.

I would also remark that the only appointment which is legal is one on nomination by the President to the Senate, ~~and~~ their subsequent ratification and the execution of legal bonds by the officer. If by temporary appointment, therefore, the Supt. designed to secure the services of Mr. Millington without such formalities he is in error.

Under the circumstances, I think the selection to be made should be one which it is designed to make permanent. A few weeks delay is preferable to the inconveniences of a second change, or the hazard of an incompetent officer. If Mr. Millborough should be selected, it ought only to be after full inquiry and satisfaction, and with a view to his permanent continuance.

Should you wish me to recommend a competent person I have no doubt that, after due inquiry, I should be able to do so.

very respectfully
your obd't Servt

Geo N Eckert
Director

Wm L. Hodge Esq
Ass't Secy Treas'y

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia 15 Feb. 1853.

~~316~~

5a

ir,

I have the honor to inform you that the Commission f assay was held at the Mint yesterday. The members present were, the Hon. J. K. Kane, Judge of the U. S. istrict Court, for the E. District of Pa., Wm. D. Lewis, Esq. ollector of the port of Phila. (they being Commissioners ex officio), Hon. F. P. Stanton, Hon. H. A. Muhlenberg, Prof. oseph Henry, Prof. J. D. Dana, and Dr. James R. Chilton, they being Commissioners specially designated by the President). The absent members of the Commission were the Hon. R. M. T. Hunter, Hon. Jas. A. Pearce, Hon. R. Brodhead, Hon. C. L. Dunham, Hon. Jas. Brooks (all special Commissioners) and John W. Ashmead, Esq. Attorney of the U. S. for he E. District of Pa. (Commissioner ex officio).

The conformity of the coinage at the several Mints to he legal standard of weight was tested by weighing the eserved coins in mass, and by trials on single pieces nd the correspondence was in every instance close and atisfactory

The conformity of the coinage to the legal standard of ineness was also tested by assays. The fineness reported or the gold coins was as follows: at Phila. (thousandths) 900.4 t N. Orleans do 899.1, at Charlotte do 899.5, at Dahlonega do 899.2. The fineness reported for the silver coins, exclusive the threecents, was at Phila. do 900.4, at N. Orleans do 900.9. e fineness of the threecent coins (issued only from Philadelphia) was do 748.5 The allowed limits of variation are

gold coin from Ht 898 to Ht 902; for silver coin from
t 897 to Ht 903; for threecent coin from Ht 745 to Ht 755;
o that the actual fineness was far within the legal
imits in every case.

very respectfully
your obed't serv't
Geo W Eckert
Director

Hon. Thomas Corwin,
Secretary of the Treasy
Washington.

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia 22 Feb 1853

Sir,

I have not seen any copy of the Civil & Diplomatic Appropriation Bill as it has been reported to the H.R., but I presume that as to the Mints it ives the amounts asked for in the estimates from he Department. In those estimates the amounts for his Mint were set down as follows: viz.

For salaries &c.			$22,200.
For wages, in addition to other available funds			24,000.
For incidentals &c.	do	do	1,500
For ores & coins			300
			$48,000

Among the available funds of which we calculated t. have the use, you will find (by referring to the Grounds & Estimates accompanying my letter of the 8 Nov. last) that there were included an available surplus, at the termination of the present fiscal year, of $38,000., and a profit $7,000 from the threecent coinage of the next fiscal year; he estimated surplus above refered to also growing out of n estimated coinage of threecents.

But in consequence of the passage of the silver bill, it s evident that our profits on the threecent coinage, both uring the present & approaching fiscal years will be ry far short of what had been estimated, and it becomes necessary to ask for an increase of our appropriation commensurate with the anticipated deficiency of means due to the ~~deficiency~~ diminished coinage of three

…nt. As a basis for such an amended appropriation
… may, I think, safely assume that the surplus of means
…the close of the present fiscal year will not exceed
…,000 instead of being $38,000 as before estimated; and
… to the profits on three cent coinage, after the new silver
…mmences to be issued, I may assume that ~~It~~ they will en-
…ly cease. In my judgment the coinage of that piece,
…en no longer indispensable by reason of the scarcity of other
…er, should be suspended with a view to give Congress
… opportunity of conforming its standard to the new silver
…ins, unless indeed that should be done at the present
…ssion.

It would appear then that we shall have $18,000
… surplus to begin the next fiscal year, and $70,000 less
…ans for that year from three cent coinage; so that our ap-
…propriation should be increased $88,000. Our estimates
…ould therefore be as follows:

For the Mint of the United States at Phil^a

…r salaries &c. &c.	$22,200
…r wages of workmen	72,000
…r incidentals &c. &c. in addition &c. &c.	41,500
…r ores & coins &c. &c.	300
	$136,000

The Branch Mint estimates not having been based
… a profit from three cents do not require change. — I may
…d that we shall have no advantage from the seignorage or profit
… new silver coinage, the revenue being payable to the Genl. Treasy
…not to the Mints.

Very respectfully

…n. Thomas Corwin
Secy of the Treasy

Geo. N. Eckert
Director

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia 26 Feb 1853.

ir,

In anticipation of the time when, by law, we
hall be allowed to issue the new silver coin lately au-
horised, it seems to me incumbent on us to take some
easures to procure a supply of bullion for the coinage.
ow this shall be most readily and economically effect-
d may be a matter of some doubt. After considerable re-
ection on the subject it has seemed to me that the most
xpedient method will be for the Mint, with the approv-
l of the Department, to establish and publish a fixed
rice for certain classes of silver, to be paid to all comers
ho may offer the same. In the first instance the pay-
ent should be in gold, but it would be an additional
ducement, to banks particularly, if we should under-
ke to replace that gold with the new coin, to those
ho furnished us silver, and in the order of priority.

The London price of Mexican dollars, since the com-
encement of the year to the ~~present~~ last dates, has
een slightly less than $1.21 an ounce. It appears
 me ~~this~~ our price should not exceed the London price,
nd taking that as a basis our tariff should be
 follows:

For dollars of Spain, Mexico, Peru, Bolivia, & Chili,
nd those restamped in Brazil; for francs; for Unit-
d States silver coins, other than the three cent, the price
aid on delivery at the Mint, will be $1.21 an
unce gross. — For thalers of Sweden and the Nor-

thern states of Germany, $1.01 an ounce gross: for silver in bars, $1.21 per ounce, at standard of nine-tenths, to be determined by assay at the Mint.

If the supply brought to us should exceed the amount of gold which we can conveniently spare from the Bullion Fund it would be neces-ary to have temporary transfers of public money to effect the purchases to be replaced on the receipt of gold from the sale of the new coins.

I throw out these ideas for the consideration f the Department with a view principally to learn hether the fixing, by advertisement, of a Mint price s approved.

very respectfully
your obdt servt
Geo N Eckert
Director

Hon Thos. Corwin
Secy of Treasy

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia 1 March 1853

Sir,

Having been informed that the President pproves of the appointment of assistants to he Assayer, the Chief Coiner, and the Melter Refiner, as recommended by me some time ince, I have now the honor to nominate for hose offices the following gentlemen, viz

Andrew Mason to be Second Assistant Assayer
John H. Taylor to be Assistant Melter & Refiner
George W. Hall to be Assistant Coiner.

s I have before stated these gentlemen are now erforming the principal duties which will devolve pon them by virtue of their appointment to office, ing compensated by wages instead of salary.

I propose that each assistant shall receive 1200 per annum, and give bond in $5000.

very respectfully
your obdt servt

Geo N Eckert
Director

on. Thomas Corwin
Secy of the Treasy

5 e.

Washington, March 14th 1853

Sir:

Present process — quartation — melting gold with a certain
ulu of silver, then casting it in water, and obtaining from particles -
then proportionate quantities of alloy are subjected to nitric acid,
hich ~~unites~~ extracts silver and other substances, leaving the gold pure.
e solution is drawn off; ~~but~~ being a solution of nitrate of silver. Then
mmon salt added to solution, and the silver is precipitated,
ing ~~th~~ a precipitate of chloride of silver; the liquid portion is then a nitrate
soda. If too much ~~sod~~ salt be added, ~~the nitric acid acts~~ it acts
a resolvent, ~~and~~, hence, it is not improbable that considerable
lver, is, unprecipitatingly, contained in the solution: this is again
awn off, leaving the muriate of silver as a residuum [The solution
ng that of nitrate of soda, is sold to chemical manufacturers:]
t is used at 2 cents a gallon.
~~It is~~ Nitric acid is worth 15 cents a pound. Sulphuric
id, from 1½ to 2½. This will avoid loss. But there is some
fficulty in the use of sulphuric acid, on account of its action in its
iluted. ~~concentrated~~ form on iron. Sulphuric acid in its concentrated form does
ot act on iron.

Mr Louis Becker, 54 North Fifth street

Scientific American.

Dr Genth, Walnut street near Fourth.

Office up stairs.

Mr Becker is familiar with ~~the~~ a method by of reduction by Sulphuric acid, which, for economy, when onc established, is superior to all methods known or practised.

Notes on the New Coinage Act.

The law takes effect on the 1st of April, and after that day no half dollars, quarters, dimes or half dimes, of the old weights, can be iſsued from the Mint: but it does not thence follow that the iſsue of the new coins is to commence on the same day. It must have been in the contemplation of Congreſs, that a reasonable time should be allowed for the change, so that the work when done, should be *well* done.

The new half dollars, quarters, dimes and half dimes, will differ considerably in *intrinsic* value from the old, and therefore should be so distinctly marked, as to be distinguished at a glance.

If we now hastily emit new coins of silver, and then have to change them six months hence, we shall have in circulation no leſs than five varieties of small silver coins.

1st The old Spanish 50, 25, 12½, 20 and 6¼ cent pieces.
2nd The old U.S. 50. 25, 10 and 5 cent pieces.
3 The new U.S. 50, 25. 10 and 5 cent pieces.
4. The *new* new U.S. 50. 25, 10 and 5 cent pieces.
5. The new 3 cent piece differing from the old in standard.

The coins of a country ought to be as uniform as poſsible in weight and value: and ought not to be unneceſsarily varied in devices.

The inconvenience that the public will sustain, from waiting a few months, will be no greater than the inconvenience they have been subject to for the last two years, and this inconvenience, there is every reason to believe, has been groſsly exaggerated both in the public prints and in speeches in Congreſs.

The disappearance of small coins has not been owing solely to the fall in value of gold, but in part to the free iſsues of small notes, and in part to the emiſsion of gold dollars, a measure which has not produced unmixed good.

The whole legislation of Congreſs on the subject of coinage has, of late years, been censurable and carelefs. There are faults for which the Department is not accountable, and which it cannot correct. But it can check the officers of the Mint, when they seem disposed to increase the evils arising from hasty, inconsiderate legislation.

W. M. G

March 25th 1853,

Treasury Department
March 25 1853

Sir

Your letters of March 12th and 24th have been received.

The new silver coinage will be as distinct from the old, as the latter is from the copper coinage. The old silver coins will continue to be a tender for debts to any amount. The new silver coin will be a tender for debts to only a limited amount. Public convenience requires that the devices on the new silver coins should be entirely distinct from those on the old, so that there shall be no risque of confounding them in the haste of business.

You will, please therefore to prepare new devices for the new silver coin, and submit them to this Department for its consideration.

Very Respectfully

Secretary of the Treasury.

To
Dr Geo. N. Eckert,
Director of the Mint.
Phila

RG104 E-216 Vol 10

~~Notes on the Mint.~~

Notes on the sections of the Appropriation Bill
stablishing an Assay Office at New York.

This Assay office will be in point of fact, a branch mint, performing all the functions of the Mint, except that of reparing disks of less than an ounce weight, stamping and milling them.

It is to be under the general superintendence of the Director of the Mint at Philadelphia, and the Assistant Treasurer at New York, is to be treasurer of the Assay Office, a branch mint in that ity. With this exception, all the officers and clerks are to e appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury, with the approbation nd consent of the President of the United States. The like uthority is to direct the employment of such assistants, workmen nd servants as shall be necessary.

There is no restriction in the bill, as to the number of officers, lerks and workmen. Every thing is here left to the discretion of f the Secretary and the President. And the only restriction as to their compensation, is that it shall not exceed that allowed for corresponding services under existing laws relating to the Mint and its branches.

The whole sum appropriated to bring this Assay Office [illegible]ration, is $100,000; — a sum utterly inadequate the purpose.

The Secretary is authorized to procure by lease or otherwise, a building or apartments in the city of New York, nless he is of opinion that suitable apartments can be rocured in the Custom House.

From my knowledge of that building, I would say that uitable apartments cannot be had in ~~that building~~ it.

A Mr Charles Augustus Davis, a director of the Bank of the State of New York, suggests that that Bank will be willing to erect a suitable building on the rear of ~~the~~ its lot, and nearly adjoining the Custom House.

Such a building would, as I conceive, do serious injury to the Custom House, by darkening it, and obstructing the free circulation of air. Besides this, a question may arise, as to whether the President and Secretary would deem themselves authorised to enter into an implied understanding to occupy the building for a series of years, without which, it is to be presumed, the bank would not be willing to erect it.

On the other hand, it may be urged that as the Assistant Treasurer, at New York, is to be Treasurer of the Assay Office, ~~at~~ it is very desirable that the said Assay Office should be very near to, if not in the Custom House.

There is an incongruity in the Legislation of Congress. The fifth section of the Act making appropriation for civil expenses, provides that "when private establishments shall be made "to refine gold bullion, the Secretary of the Treasury if he shall "deem them ~~capab~~ capable of executing such work, is hereby "authorized and required to limit the amount thereof, "which shall be refined in the Mint at Philadelphia, "so, as soon as maybe, to exclude refining from the "Mint."

The obvious intent of this, is, to throw the business of refining into private hands, where it properly belongs.

On the other hand, in the 10th section of the bill in which provision is made for the establishment of an Assay office, ~~it is~~ the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized and required to establish in the city of New York an office for the receipt, and for the melting, refining, parting, and assaying of gold bullion."

While he is directed to cause the melting and refining to cease at Philadelphia, as soon as possible, he is also directed to establish an office for this purpose at New York, thus throwing obstacles into the way of making private establishment in that city.

Mr R. S. McCulloh, professor of Chemistry in Princeton College, says, in a letter to this Department, dated March 19th,

"It is my purpose and desire, in connexion with commercial gentlemen of New York, if we may be permitted to do so, immediately to put into operation in that city, the largest and best refinery in the world,— one capable of doing promptly, all the work which might be required. x x x or

"If you can and will give me assurances, that you will construe ~~the~~ and execute said act, so as to foster and encourage, instead of prohibiting private refining, and that you will limit and eventually exclude refining from the New York assay office, or even omit to put it into extensive operation therein, if I shall promptly establish a large and suitable refinery, we will embark immediately in the enterprise."

I know not that the Department has the power to give ~~the~~ Mr McCulloh, the assurance he solicits: but the whole of his letter may not be unworthy of the attention of the Secretary.

If the business of melting, refining and parting golds can be done by private establishment, and the new office made simply an assay office, the following advantages may arise.

1st The business may probably be carried on in the Custom House, or some building in its immediate vicinity.

2nd The appropriation by Congress will cover the expenses

3. The Department will be carrying out the policy of the 5th section of the appropriation act, which contemplates the transfer of this business to private hands.

It will be proper to institute a correspondence on this subject, with the new Collector and the new Assistant Treasurer, at New York, as soon as they shall enter regularly upon the discharge of their duties.

By the 14th section of the bill, the Secretary is "authorized and directed to procure the necessary machinery and implements for carrying on the operations and business of the said office."

It will be best to commit this duty, so far as details are concerned, to the Director of the Mint, who is by law, to exercise a general superintendence of the Assay Office. But the Director of the Mint will not be able to tell what machinery shall be necessary and proper, till it shall be decided where the Assay Office is to be located; and to what extent it is to operate.

On the New Silver Coinage.

The law, if strictly construed, authorises the new coinage at the Mint only, and not at the Branches.

It provides that the Treasurer of the Mint shall, with the approbation of the Director, purchase the bullion, and keep the accounts of the same. And the silver thus coined is to be *transmitted*" to the aſsistant treasurers, depositaries, and other officers of the United States, under general regulations, proposed by the Director of the Mint, and approved by the Secretary of the Treasury."

Only a limited amount of this new coin will be neceſsary, and it is probable that Congreſs thought that unneceſsary expence would be incurred by authorising it to be made, at both the Mint and its Branches.

The only direct reference to the branches, is in the seventh section of the act, wherein provision is made for the coining of three dollar gold pieces. It is expreſsly declared that they shall be "struck and coined at the Mint of the "United States *and* the Branches thereof."

Wm. M. Gouge

April 15th 1853.

Not Sent

6

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia 15 Mar. 1853.

Sir,

In the gold of California there is contained a notable proportion of silver, which it is the practice of the Mint to separate for the depositor. We estimate the value of such silver at the legal rate of a dollar to each 412½ grains standard so separated, make certain legal deductions therefrom for the expense of parting, and pay the difference to the depositor in gold coins; our custom being to add such difference, or the net value of the silver, to the value of the gold deposit, and to pay the whole in one sum and by one warrant.

Since the rise in the intrinsic value of silver bullion our practice in this particular has been excepted to as illegal and unjust; illegal, because such silver must be looked upon in the light of a silver deposit, and can therefore only properly be paid in coins of the same metal; unjust because the Mint valuation of silver being below the market rate, depositors are, without their consent, deprived of a profit which would enure to them were the payment made in silver coins, weight for weight. Each 412½ grains weight of silver, which the Mint values at, & pays with, a dollar of gold, is in fact marketable at 1.04 in gold.

Notwithstanding this apparent injustice, my impressions, on the first serious investigation of this question were that the practice of the Mint was legally correct, and the rounds of my conviction were stated at large in a correspon-

pondence which I had the honor to enclose to the Depart-
ment on the 23d. of November last. Subsequently, howev-
r, I saw reasons to doubt the correctness of my views
s first expressed; and on the 27th of Jan. last, I re-
urred to the subject, and requested the authority of the
epartment to pay for silver parted in silver coins. The
ecretary, in a letter of the 31st Jan'y, declined to give in-
tructions, till the action of Congress on the new silver coin-
ge bill should be taken. Since then, not only has that
ill been passed, but by subsequent legislation it has been
nade to take effect on the 1st prox., so that in so far
s it affects the question now under discussion, the short-
ess of time thus allowed must be my apology for troub-
ing you with this subject.

I presume that the Secretary entertained a disincli-
nation to pay for silver parted in silver coins at the rate
f 412½ grains to the dollar because such coins would, in
act, never have gone into circulation, but have been ex-
orted or melted with a view to profit. It was probably
his intention, on the passage of the new silver bill, to
uthorise the payment of silver parted in the half doll-
rs, and parts, therein authorized, that is at the rate
384 grains to the dollars worth, at which rate, of cour
uch coins will remain in circulation.

But such a mode of payment would not, probably,
emove the dissatisfaction of the depositors. What they
esire is to receive back, in coin or bullion, the same
eight of silver that they deposited. To give to the depos-
tor in payment of his dollar of silver bullion, weighing
12½ grains two half dollars weighing but 384 grains

would

ould be no more just than to pay him in a dollar f gold worth say 384 grains.

But if even the depositors made no objection, it ould appear that, by the 5th section of the silver bill of eb. 21, 1853 such a payment is unauthorized. By that ection deposits by individuals, payable in the half dollr and parts, are prohibited. Now the only ground on hich silver parted from gold can be recognized and aid for is, that it is a silver deposit. If the gold deposit be by any other than the Treasurer of the Mint, hen the silver contained in it is not payable, as I construe he section, in silver coins other than the dollar, exceptng, of course, fractions less than that amount, which by ecessity must be paid in fractional coins.

The question as to the proper mode of paying for siler parted from gold appears to me, therefore, to be narrowed this alternative: shall it be paid for in gold coins, or n silver dollars. My own impression is that it should be aid in the latter coins. Nevertheless such will be the anoyances growing out of that mode of payment that I hould be well pleased if the Department could arrive t a different conclusion. We should have, probably, to ssue double warrants for the payment of each deposit; ne for the gold, another for the silver contained in it; t least if separate warrants were not required separate payments would be necessary. Moreover, such silver dollars being, on account of their enhanced market value nly a merchantable commodity, would be received y the Depositor only to be sold again, and most

prob-

robably to the Mint itself: So that not only would
e have, by one transaction to pay for the silver parted
d by another we should be called upon to purchase it
ack.

I have now respectfully to ask of you a decision
pon the question now presented to you. You will prob-
bly find in my correspondence of Nov. 23d last, and
an 27, all the points presented which have a bearing
n the matter.

I may mention that the decision of another ques-
ion incidentally depends on your views upon this sub-
ect. By the 6th section of the silver bill a coinage charge
f one half percent is imposed on all coin except frac-
ions of a dollar. If silver parted is paid for in silver
ollars, of course a deduction of half percent therefrom
must be made. If paid in gold, I presume, considering
hat we thus deprive the depositor of all premium
n his silver bullion, it would not be thought proper
lso to charge him a coinage rate on the gold coins
hus exchanged for his silver.

It is proper to add that the preparation of new
forms & abstracts ~~for~~ to meet the changes which take
ffect on the 1st of April, is delayed till the views
f the Department can be obtained upon the subjects
f this communication.

I have the honor to remain
yours very respectfully
Geo N Eckert
Director

Hon. James Guthrie,
Secy of the Treasy.

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia 23 Mar. 1853

Sir,

I should be very loth to press unimportant matters upon your attention, particularly at a time when the cares of your Department are, I know, more than usually engrossing, nevertheless it is my duty to remind you that the preparations which I deem it necessary to make, to meet the important changes relative to coinage &c. which legally take effect on the 1st April, are in a great measure suspended in expectation of your replies to my letters of the 12th inst (misdated 12 Feb.), and 15th inst., especially the former.

I am quite willing, on my own official responsibility, to authorise such changes, and to give such instructions, both for this and the Branch Mints, as may in my judgment be requisite under the late laws; and although, in ordinary circumstances, a consultation with and deference to the Department is indispensable, it may be advisable in view of the shortness of time, the anxiety of the public, and your now peculiar cares, to devolve all necessary action upon the Director of the Mint. A general instruction to that effect will be cheerfully complied with.

I have the honor to be
very respectfully &
Geo N Eckert
Director

Hon. James Guthrie,
Sec'y of the Treas'y.

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia 26 Mar. 1853

Sir,

As requested by telegraph I now enclose your communications of yesterday unopened.

In my letter of the 12th inst., in which I suggested the fixing by the Mint of a definite price per ounce for classes of silver bullion, I have omitted to state that I wished a discretion allowed to vary the price, from time to time, on public notice, as the wants of the Mint and the contingencies of the bullion market might require. I suggested $1.21 as the price which appeared to me sufficient at the present time, but I desire authority, if that should be found too low, or unnecessarily high, to change it.

It is proper also to state that ~~the~~ an alternative proposition to a published Mint price is for the Mint to employ an agent, at a fixed commission, to buy for us the requisite supply for our wants. This would be a far less troublesome plan for the Mint, but of its economy I am unable to express an opinion. Such an agent, if employed, should have great experience, and a wide commercial connection, both at home and abroad. If it should be actually true, what is often asserted, that there is not silver enough in the U.S. now to meet the public demand, for recoinage, for more than a few weeks or months, and that the moment the government publicly comes into the market as a purchaser, the price will exorbitantly raised; then the appointment of a secret agent to purchase will be necessary. A strong reason I have for recommending a published price is that the insinuations of favoritism which would otherwise be brought against us can thus be avoided. But I should cheerfully defer to any plan which the Department may recommend.

Very respectfully
Your ob't Serv't
Geo N Eckert
Director

Hon. Jas. Guthrie,
Sec. of Treasury.

The Treasurer of the United States
Dr To the Treasurer of the Mint

For payment of Three cent coin to the parties undermentioned made by authority of the Treasury Department under date of May 3rd 1851.

To Asst Treasr	at	New York	"see voucher No	1"	$2000.
" Depository	"	Baltimore	" "	2	3000.
" "	"	Buffalo	" "	3	2610.
" "	"	Norfolk	" "	4	600.
" "	"	Savannah	" "	5	920.
Nine Thousand one Hundred & thirty Dollars					$9.130.

Mint of the United States
Treasurers Office
March 31st 1853.

E. C. Dale
Treasurer

Mint of the United States,
Philada 31 Mar. 1853.

Sir,

I have the honor herewith to enclose specimen quarter dollars prepared with the alterations announced in my letter of the 12th. If you should approve of the change thus made, and of a similar change in the half dollar, dime & half dime (except the omission of the rays in the two latter) it is of great public importance that I should be informed without delay. The clamor of the community for an issue of the new coin is very great, and until the devices are settled (which by law devolves upon you) we cannot enter upon the coinage.

By the Act of Feb. 21, 1853, it is made the duty of the Mint to issue bars of fine gold instead of coin, to such parties as may apply therefor: and by the 7th section of the Deficiency Bill the rate of charge therefor is to be commensurate to the actual cost "to be regulated from time to time by the Secretary of the Treasury."

Many experiments have been tried by us, in preparing for the operation of this law: without troubling you with useless details, I may state that we propose, with your permission, to prepare bars of fine gold (that is of the fineness as returned from the parting room, say from 988 thousandths to 992 or 993); the weights will be of about 200* ounces, 50 ozs, and 10 ozs, as near as may be approximated in the process of casting. On these will be stamped the fineness or quality and weight (which are all the designa-

Phila Mint March 31/53
Propl of 3 Cent Coin

ignations required by law), and also the number, and the Mint mark and date. I have also ordered to be prepared a ticket or certificate in strong bank note paper, stating the gross value of the bar, the charges which will be imposed upon it if returned to the Mint for coinage (½ p.c.) and the net value consequently payable at our Treasury. This certificate will be glued to the bar, on the opposite side from that whereon the stamps are affixed, and will not appreciably add to the weight, while it affords information as well as security not to be given by the rude process of stamping.

In regard to the cost of preparing fine bars, this of course, has only reference to the melting & assaying processes, and incidents thereto; the charge for refining being necessarily the same as that fixed by the present mint tariff for refining preparatory to coinage. With a view, then, to determine the cost of making bars, I have taken into view the expenses of materials in our deposits melting and assay department, for 4 mos, in operating on $15,250,000 of gold bullion. I have also estimated the probable waste in the operation; and added items for salaries of officers engaged in the operations, and for rent of building or apartments as necessary. In estimating the cost of the two latter items it was not possible to be guided by any tangible expenditures here, since the officers & the building are employed for other purposes than bar making, and no separation of expenses could be made. I have considered, therefore, only what would be the cost of bar making, under the heads of rent and official salaries, if ~~this~~ an establishment were organized confined solely to to those duties, as may be the case in New-York under the assay office to be erected there. With these preliminaries I present the following estimate of the expense of melting and assaying bars.

On 15¼ million melted at the Mint, in 4 mos. the expense for materials was ——	$1800.
do assay department exclusive of salaries	2135
estimated salaries of a treasurer, two assayers, and two clerks, as the official organization requisite for an assay & melting institution – 4 mos	1975
estimated rent on a building, – 4 mos	1600
estimated wastage $\frac{1}{10}$th of thousandth on $15,250,000	1525
Total probable expenses for $15,250,000 ——	$9,035

This estimate gives the expense at $5\frac{93}{100}$ cents per $100.– or 6 cents, almost exactly. And I therefore now recommend that you should authorise that rate of charge on the issue of fine bars from the Mint.

For purposes of export it will be much more profitable to use such fine bars than to use coin, so that there is some reason to believe that quite a considerable amount of them will be required. You can perceive that if *coin* are exported, the owner will lose the half per cent which he has paid to procure such coin at the Mint, under the late law, since coin abroad is generally melted down. Besides, coin of the U.S., being below the British standard, are subjected to a charge, for refining them up to that standard, of quite a considerable amount. If the exporter sends abroad fine bars he loses only 6 cents per $100 worth, paid to the Mint for making them, instead of 50 cents which he would have paid for coin. He avoids also the refining charge abroad; and it is my impression that he will be even able to sell his bars at some little advantage, by reason of their near approach to purity.

It is proper to state that, in consequence of the introduction of the systems of charges for coining & of bar making, it has been necessary to make alterations in our forms of assay report, calculation abstract, and warrant for payment. As these changes do not affect the general principles on which our accounts are kept, and as time was very pressing, I have taken the liberty to do this without first consulting the department.

I may also mention that, not having had the pleasure to hear your views in regard to my letter of the 12th inst. relative to the purchase of silver, and it being important that some plan should be announced for the information of applicants, I have, in connection with the Treasurer, fixed the prices and terms of payment mentioned in the letter just referred to.

I have the honor to be,
very respectfully
your ob't serv't

Geo N Eckert
Director

Hon. Jas. Guthrie,
Sec'y of Treasury.

Summary Statement of the Operations of the Mint at

Gold Bullion

					Standard weight Ounces dec	Dollars cts
1852 Decemb.	31	Balance on hand this day as pr a/c rend^d.			160,262.632	2,981,630.40
1853 March	31	Gold Bullion dep. for coinage 1^st qr 1853			858,391.390	15,970,072.41
"	"	do. grains from dep. melting, dep by Treas Mar 31/53			372.978	6,939.13
"	"	Total Deposites Oz 858,764.368. $ 15,977,011.54				
"	"	Gold Parted from Silver 1^st qr 1853			11.110	206.70
"	"	" Assay coins inspected & del^d to M. & Refiner			360.179	6701.00
					1,019,398.289	18,965,549.64
March	31	Gold Bullion coined 1^st qr 1853			722,103.085	13,434,476.00
"	"	Gold Wastage, Melter & R.			852.920	15,868.30
"	"	Gold Sweeps, rec^d from M & R 3^d qr 1852			998.256	18,572.24
"	"	Balance in the Mint this day, namely.				
		In hands of Treas.	Oz 1,833.429	$ 34,110.29		
		" " " C. Coiner	" 49,632.890	923,402.60		
		" " M & Refiner	" 243,977.709	4,539,120.21	295,444.028	5,496,633.10
					1,019,398.289	18,965,549.64

Silver Bullion

1852 Dec.	31	Balance on hand this day as per a/c rendered			567,525.02	660,392.73
1853 Mar.	31	Silver Bullion dep for coinage 1^st qr 1853			287,495.27	334,539.95
"	"	Silver Parted from gold for Depositors			103,668.99	120,632.98
"	"	do do do do " the Mint			3,444.85	4,008.55
"	"	Silver Assay Coins of 1852 inspected & del^d to M & R			181.33	211.00
					962,315.46	1,119,785.21
March	31	Silver Bullion coined 1^st qr 1853			268,382.80	312,300.0
"	"	Silver used in Alloy of Gold Ingots "			8286.23	9642.1
"	"	Silver Wastage M & R. as per abstract			183.78	213.87
"	"	Balance in the Mint this day namely:				
		In hands of Treas^r.	Oz 1,124.63	$ 1,308.65		
		" " " C. Coiner	82,286.12.	95,751.12		
		" " " M & Refiner	602,051.90	700,569.41	685,462.65	797,629.18

Philadelphia for the First Quarter of the Year 1853

Gold Coinage.

			Dollars cts	Dollars cts
1852 December	31	Balance in the Mint this day as pr a/c rend.		2,252,626.21
1853 March	31	Gold coined 1st qr 1853		13,434,476.00
"	"	Gold coins received for proceeds of sweeps in 3d qr 1852.		14,486.15
"	"	Gold coins by count in excess of Gold coinage a/c		26,075.16
				15,727,663.52
March	31	Payments to Depositors previous qrs pd 1st qr 1853	185,376.18	
"	"	do proceeds of dep: melting made by Treas. Dec 31/52	6610.12	191,986.30
"	"	do do deposites of 1st qr 1853 as pr abstract		14,578,654.20
"	"	Transfers to Ordinary Acct. part of deductions		25,000.00
"	"	Gold assay coins of 1852 inspected & del to M&R.		6701.00
"	"	Balance in Mint this day: Gold Coinage	919,101.02	
		Gold assay coins	6221.00	925,322.02
				15,727,663.52

Silver Coinage

			Dollars cts	Dollars cts
1852 December	31	Balance in the Mint this day as pr a/c rend.		54,643.17
1853 March	31	Silver coined 1st qr 1853		312,300.00
"	"	do do being enhanced Value on coinage of 3¢ ps		57,000.00
				423,943.17
March	31	Payments to depositors previous qrs pd 1st qr 1853	6839.40	
"	"	do " " deposites of 1st qr 1853	332,316.43	339,155.83
"	"	do on Treasury Transfer dfts in 3¢ coins		9130.00
"	"	do for expenses of distribution of 3¢ coins		3613.62
"	"	do premium on purchase of Silver for 3¢ coinage		14,076.73
"	"	Assay coins of 1852 inspected & deld. to M&R.		211.00
"	"	Diff: between nominal $198 & intrinsic $165 val of 3¢ coins melted for assay & del to M&R		33.00
"	"	Silver Coins by count less than Silver Coinage a/c		26,075.16
"	"	Balance this day, Silver Coinage	31,625.53	
		Silver Assay Coins	22.30	31,647.83
				423,943.17

CIRCULAR.

Mint of the United States,

Philadelphia, 18th April, 1853.

The Director of the Mint gives notice, that the preparations are now complete, for the issue of bars of refined Gold, to such parties as may prefer the same to coin, in payment of their deposits of Gold Bullion.

These bars will be stamped with the inscription, "U. S. Mint, Philadelphia," with the year of issue, the weight in ounces and hundredths, and the fineness in thousandths. In addition to these particulars, which include all that are required to be stated by law, a label will be attached to each bar, covering information as to the gross value of the bar, and its net value if returned to the Mint for coinage, after deduction made of half per cent. as the legal charge therefor.

The cost of procuring the bars from the Mint, in addition to the charge for parting, when that operation is required, has been fixed by the Secretary of the Treasury at six cents per hundred dollars worth. The cost of procuring coin, in addition to the same parting charge, has been fixed by law at fifty cents a hundred dollars worth. It is manifest, therefore, that there is an economy in procuring bars instead of coin, amounting to forty-four cents in the hundred dollars.

So far then as the issues demanded from the Mint are designed for other purposes than domestic circulation, there can be no doubt of the economical advantage, if no other, of selecting bars instead of coin. It may consequently be anticipated that the use of coin for manufactures, and for exportation, will in a great measure cease, and that bars will be substituted. But irrespective of any economy growing out of the Mint tariffs, there are some special advantages in the use of fine bars, instead of coin, for manufacture and export. Their high standard fits them at once for the use of Gold Beaters, and facilitates the preparation, by mixture with base bullion, of any quality of metal required in Gold manufactures; and, on their exportation to Great Britain, and sale to the Bank of England, precludes the refining charge now imposed on American coin; and possibly the delays and expense incident to re-melting and re-assay.

To what extent these bars may prove useful as substitutes for coin, in large payments, experience must determine. The facility with which large sums may be counted in them, and their freedom, with moderate care, from the abrasion and loss consequent upon the use of coin, are advantages which must be taken into account in forming a judgment on that point. It must also be left to experience to determine at what rate these bars shall pass; whether at the gross value, that is at the amount which would be equivalent thereto in coin,—or at the net value payable on deposit at the Mint, being half per cent. less than the gross value, by reason of the coinage charge,—or at a value intermediate between the gross and the net value, and varying according to the circumstances of demand and supply. On this point it may be remarked that, at all events the bars should never be estimated at less than their net value, since they can be cashed for that sum at the Mint, and hereafter at the New York Assay Office. On the other hand, for export or manufacture they are intrinsically worth the gross value, and purchasers will always find it to their advantage to pay that amount for them rather than use coin for such purposes.

T. M. PETTIT,

Mint of the United States
Assist. Treas. Office 1 April 1853.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge your communication of the 28th ult., only at hand to day, and in view of the explanations therein made, have endorsed the draft for $500,000 on the Assist. Treas. at New York, and have placed it in the hands of Adams & Co. for collection.

It is proper to state that the language which you quote from the letter of the Assist. Treas. at N. York, of the 11th ult., in which I am stated as willing to receive the silver bullion delivered to him without count, on the Guaranty of Beebee & Co., conveys an erroneous impression. I undertook if instructed or authorised by the Department to receive it without count. Such authority having never been received I cannot perceive how my undertaking was in any manner operative. Nevertheless I do not anticipate the slightest difficulty from this source, as Beebee & Co are very correct & amply responsible.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
C. C. Dale
Asst. Treas.

Hon. Jas Guthrie }
Sec. of Treasury. }

14

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia 5 April 1853.

Sir,

By instructions from the Department the sum of $500,000 in silver, accumulated at the Assistant Treasury in New York, and to be transferred to that officer here, is to be exchanged to the Mint for an equivalent amount in gold coins. We are also ourselves purchasing silver, under the terms of a circular which I have herewith the honor to enclose, paying for the same in gold, and from the experience of only two days we have reason to expect the receipt of a very large amount from this source, at least equivalent to the sum received from the New York Assistant Treasury. In consequence of these purchases it is evident that our bullion fund, for all available purposes, will be reduced about a million of dollars; the silver which has been purchased with gold coins being a dead stock, bringing nothing into the Mint whatever until recoined, which will take a considerable time. And even when coined, ~~for~~ it will at first be only available for the purchase of new silver to meet a public demand the extent of which is beyond conjecture.

The question becomes serious whether the Mint can continue, as heretofore, the prompt payment of its gold deposits if, say a million of the gold in its bullion fund is exchanged for a million of silver unavailable for gold payments. I have myself no doubt whatever that it will be quite impossible except under one of two contingencies, ere is a great diminution in the amount of gold received on deposit, or a permanent employment of our workmen at overtime. It would be hazardous to calculate on a diminution of deposits, particularly as the receipts of March have exceeded those of any other month in the experience of the Mint, being ~~near~~ over 7½ millions. To push the work of the Mint beyond what it is at present would, I think, be unwise; first, because of the great expense, all hours of work beyond ten, having to be compensated by extra pay, second because it would probably prove injurious to the health of the workmen, and cause us much inconvenience from time lost by sickness.

In consideration of all the circumstances I would earnestly impress upon the Department the propriety of a transfer of public money from the Assistant Treasury here to the Mint. I am somewhat doubtful what amount to suggest, but I hope, at the very least, that the half million drawn from New York to the Assist. Treasy here will be transferred to the Mint as an addition to the bullion fund. And as no possible inconvenience could be encountered by an additional transfer, as the money could easily be spared from the Assist. Treasy here, and would be very usefully employed, for the public benefit, if in the Mint, I hope that another transfer, besides the $500,000 suggested, may be made, say of a quarter to half a million. With this assistance we shall be able to prosecute untrammelled the important objects of [illegible] meeting promptly all payments required for gold deposits as well as for silver purchased for the new coinage, while, as a point of economy, the government will be saved the very considerable expenditure for wages which would attend on the extra labor otherwise necessarily to be employed.

That the request which I have made does not originate from any dilatoriness, or lack of commendable energy on the part of the operative officers and workmen of the Mint, will be apparent from the fact that in the course of the last ~~two weeks~~ twelve days of March we received over 4½ million of gold which has been promptly paid for; exhibiting, on the part of this Institution, a working capacity without precedent in its former experience, and I am convinced, never equalled elsewhere.

Permit me, respectfully, to urge upon your attention the importance of a prompt approval, or disapproval, of the devices for the new Silver coin, and of the rate proposed to be charged for making fine bars, to which your attention was called in my letter of the 31st.

I have also to call for an opinion from you as to the propriety of some change in the present instructions from the Department relative to the threecent pieces. As these coins were originally constituted, a very large profit, some 20 percent, accrued to the Mint on their manufacture, and in consideration of this profit, and of the great want of Silver change throughout the country, my predecessor recommended to the Department that these coins should be sent to all parties resident on the lines of the expresses, at the cost of the Mint. This was according to the precedent already adopted in regard to the distribution of cents. The plan was approved by the Secretary, and on his instructions the distribution has been since made, at the expense of the Mint. I may mention that the law authorising the 3¢ piece (§11 Postage Act of Mar 3, 1851) does not provide the means by which it could be carried into effect, the low standard of the coin precluding the possibility of deposits of silver by private individuals for its coinage. The Secretary, therefore, by ordering Mint purchases of bullion, for the coinage, and distributing it at Mint expense, was acting on a general discretion which, I presume, rests in the Department.

Lately, by the 7th section of the Deficiency Bill of March 3d. 1853, the standard of the 3¢ piece has been raised from $\frac{3}{4}$ths to $\frac{9}{10}$ths pure silver, and it is in value $\frac{3}{50}$ths of the proposed new half dollar. Considering the present cost of silver bullion, and the great expense of coining so small a piece, ~~&~~ the profit to the Mint, hereafter, on the coinage of threecents will be too insignificant to allow of its distribution, by the Mint, on the former system. Without doubt, also, the intention was that the threecent coin should be brought under the same regulations as the new half dollar & its subdivisions, and these, by the 4th section of the act of Feb. 21, 1853, can be distributed at government expense, only to officers of the U. S.

Considering all the circumstances, — the silence of the original law, and the unprofitableness of the 3cent piece under the late change, — I recommend that the further distribution of that coin, at the expense of the Mint, should cease, and that the instructions, to that effect, formerly issued by the Department, be withdrawn.

I have to regret that no reply has been received to my letter of the 15th. relative to the mode of payment for silver parted from gold. As it was necessary, in my judgment, that some action should be taken on this subject, without further delay, I have instructed that from the first of April such silver shall be paid for in dollars, and that such dollars shall be subjected to ½ percent charge for coining.

Very respectfully
your obt. servt
Geo N Eckert
Director

Hon. Jas. Guthrie,
Sec. of Treasury.

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia 9 Apr. 1853.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge your communication of the 7th inst. The draft of $522,564.16 in favor f the Mint, to cover the cost of that amount of silver ent to the Assistant Treasury here, will prove a great relief to ~~$~~ our Treasury. I am nevertheless of opinion hat a still further increase of our bullion fund is mperatively necessary, and, as requested by the Department, now advise you to that effect, and present some of the reasons on which that opinion is based.

The amount of gold coin in the Mint Treasury, this morning, was $276,000. A delivery from the Coin- r is expected to day, ~~at~~ of $245,000. The Coiner has lso in course of manufacture, and probably delivera- le on Tuesday, gold which will amount to about $550,000 he Melter & Refiner has in preparation material, which may be realized into coin during the next week, amount- ng to about $1,000,000. The total of these sums is about 071,000, which will be available for the payments required during the course of next week.

We are, however, advised by telegraph that the llinois sailed from Aspinwall on the 1st instant, ith $2,500,000 of gold. This will, undoubtedly be eceived, assayed & payable during next week; but, as u will observe, our contemplated means will be insufficient for its payment.

I have also to state that we have received silver bullion, under the terms of purchase approved by you and irrespective of that from New York to the amount of about $600,000. Payment for a considerable amount of this ~~it~~ has already been demanded in gold, and the whole of it may be demanded. We are advised, also, of about $200,000 more which may be expected next week; and my impression is that the receipts of that week in silver from that of other sources will at least equal those of the present, so that the possible demands, for gold, on our bullion fund, independently of those for payment of gold deposits, may prove very large.

Considering these circumstances, I have to recommend that a transfer draft for $700,000 be issued on the Assistant Treasurer here in favor of the Treasurer of the Mint. In ordinary circumstances, I can assure you, no such large sum would be necessary or asked for; but the present contingency is one of an extraordinary ~~and withal~~ although of a temporary character. On the one hand it abstracts from the Treasury, gold coin for the purchase of silver; while on the other, the force which might be applied in replenishing such deficiency of gold coin must be diverted to the manufacture of silver. The fund asked for is not required in the Assistant Treasury, that I am aware of; if transferred to the Mint it will subserve greatly to the public benefit, and to that of the Government by diminishing the necessity of employing extra labor. In a few weeks I have no doubt that the whole sum ~~it~~ could be returned to the Asst. Treas.

Very respectfully your obdt Servant

Geo. N. Eckert

Director

Hon. Jas. Guthrie
Secy of the Treasy

Mint of the U. States.
Philadelphia April 13. 1853.

The Hon: James Guthrie
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington D.C.

Sir.

Dr. Eckert, as Director of the Mint, having this day handed over to me the business and affairs of the office, I have, under the commission from the President received on the 9th instant, assumed the discharge of its duties.

Before entering upon the execution of the office, I took the oath required by law, before the Hon. J. K. Kane, Judge of the U. S. for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania; the said oath being endorsed on my commission, subscribed to by me and certified by the Judge, and a record thereof made on the minutes of the U. S. District Court.

With the highest consideration and respect, I have the honour to be,
Yr: mo: ob: ser:

T. M. Pettit
Director of the Mint.

Treasurers Office U. S. Mint
Philadelphia April 14. 1853 -

Sir,

The period is early approaching when my office of Treasurer of the Mint must be resigned into the hands of my successor, and the necessity of an early preparation of my accounts for that purpose is obvious. I regret, however, to have to announce that the force now in my department is inadequate to meet the current demands of the Mint, and to complete my accounts within the time probably required. It is indispensable, for the accurate preparation of such voluminous & complicated accounts that the book-Keeper should be, as far as possible, uninterrupted; but this is so far from being the case that the Clerk who performs that function has to be constantly interrupted to attend to other labors, indispensably necessary in the conduct of the business of my office. The accounts of the last quarter of 1852 are yet uncompleted, and those of the first quarter of 1853 are untouched, and in addition to these, a supplemental account will be necessary to the date of my retiring from office - Under such circumstances I have to request authority for the employment of a temporary clerk to carry on such business in aid of my book-Keeper as will enable the latter to devote his exclusive attention to the preparation of my accounts. I suggest that the compensation be at the rate of $1200 - per annum and that the time of employment be limited to six weeks -

Hon. T. M. Pettit
Director &c

Very Respectfully
E. C. Dale,
Treasurer

Mint of the United States
Philada 14 Apr. 1853

ir,

At the request of the Treasurer of the Mint, I
ave the honor to enclose, herewith, a bill and the
equisite vouchers, for the value of threecent pieces
nt to certain government officers, during the quar-
r ending 31 ult., under the instructions from the
epartment of 3 May 1851. You are respectfully re-
ested to issue the necessary transfer drafts to dis-
harge the Treasurer's accounts formally of the am-
nts.

very respectfully
your obd't serv't
J. M. Pettit
Director

on. Jas. Guthrie
Sec. of Treas'y
Washington.

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia 15 apr. 1853

Sir,

I enclose herewith a letter from the Treasurer of the Mint making representations, in which I fully concur, as I to the necessity of employing some temporary assistance in his office with a view to the preparation of his accounts; and I have the honor to request authority from the department empowering me to accede to his request.

very respectfully
your obd't serv't

T. M. Pettit.
Director.

Hon. Jas. Guthrie
Sec. of Treas'y

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia 16 Apr. 1853.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge your letter of the 14th inst, in relation to the propriety of an increase in our bullion fund with a view to purchases of silver. After inquiry, I have the ~~honor~~ satisfaction to state that our present means, in consequence of the late transfers to the Mint Treasury, are sufficient for all present demands, either of payment for silver, or for deposits of gold. Should future circumstances render an increase desirable I will promptly notify the Department.

very respectfully
your obdt servt

T. M. Pettit
Director

Hon. Jas. Guthrie
Sec. of Treasury
Washington.

SUPERFINE LONDON

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia 18 April 1853

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge your communication of the 15th inst., in relation to the coinage of silver at New Orleans under the late law. In reply I have to state that no doubt has been entertained in regard to the legality or the importance of such a coinage at that Mint. The instructions to that end have, however, been delayed until the dies for the new coin, adapted to the service of that Mint, shall have been prepared here. In a few days these will be ready and forwarded to New Orleans, with specific directions as to the course to be pursued in effecting the objects of the new law.

Very respectfully
your obd't serv't

T. M. Pettit
Director

Hon. Jas Guthrie,
Secr'y of the Treas'y
Washington.

Mint of the United States,
Philada. 20 Apr. 1853.

Sir,

It is very desirable that some arrangement should be made for the re-purchase, by the Mint, of the silver parted for depositors, and contained in deposits of gold; which silver is paid in dollars of old weight. In most cases the amount thus paid, to each depositor, is very small, less than the $100. which ~~for~~ is the lowest limit of amount receivable by the Mint; and even if this circumstance imposed no restriction on our purchases, it is found exceedingly inconvenient to devolve ~~it~~ them on any of the clerks in the Mint proper.

The Assistant Treasurer, with the acquiescence of his clerk, has volunteered to purchase such silver coin, if the approval of the Department can be obtained to such a transaction, and my object now is to request such approval. If the exchanges to be made were at par no necessity ould probably exist for troubling you; but, in addition to the par value must be added a premium of 4 p.c., corresponding to $1.21 an ounce, the present purchasing price. I suggest that the Assist. Treasr. should (if such exchanges e allowed) take credit for the cost value (not the par value) f the silver, and from time to time deliver the purchases the Mint, when the cost will be reimbursed to him in ull.

very respectfully yours

T. M. Pettit

Director

Hon. Jas Guthrie
Sec. of Treasy.

Mint of the United States,
Treasurers Office 20 apr 1853.

Sir,

In reply to your communication of yesterday, I beg leave respectfully to nominate Mr. Othniel De Forest as a suitable person to be employed for the objects indicated in my letter of the 14th. Mr. De Forest having been on several occasions engaged in the Assistant Treasury, in payment of interest, became also, to some extent, familiar with the routine of duties in the Mint proper, and is therefore more qualified to render the temporary assistance required than a stranger would be.

It did not occur to me that a nomination, in the formal manner pointed out by law in the case of permanent clerks of the Mint, would be required for an appointment limited only to a few weeks. I supposed that, on consultation with the Department, it was competent to us to engage temporary clerical service, as emergencies might arise, to be compensated from the Contingent Fund.

very respectfully
your obd't serv't

E. B. Dale,

Treas'r

Hon. Jas. Guthrie
Secr'y of the Treas'y

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia 20 apr. 1853

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge your letter of yesterday relative to an improved form of gold dollar, and to devices for the three dollar piece.

To my regret I find that no specimen remains of the annular gold dollar, but I enclose a piece in *silver* which exactly represents the size, thickness, & general appearance of what was struck in gold.

The preparation of an annular coin involves several mechanical difficulties, and it would probably prove a very tedious piece to strike. Nevertheless, these difficulties are not insurmountable, if that form should be thought more desirable.

I may state, also, that it would be possible to enlarge somewhat the diameter of the gold dollar, and yet preserve its present shape. The enclosed gold piece may serve as a specimen to show the extent to which the size may be increased if deemed proper.

The engagements of our Engraver in the preparation of dies for the new silver have prevented any steps being taken towards the devices for the threedollar piece, but this subject will be brought before the Department without unnecessary delay.

Very respectfully
T. M. Pettit
Director

Hon. Jas. Guthrie,
Sec. of Treasury.

Philadelphia April 23d 1853

His Excellency
Franklin Pierce
President of the United States

Dear Sir

With great pleasure, allow me to suggest to your consideration; the name of A. D Chaloner M. D. of this City, as one of the Committee on the "Annual Assay at the United States Mint"-

Dr Chaloner is a Chemist, of decided scientific acquirements; and a gentleman who takes, a great personal interest in the progress of the arts-

He served his Country in the late War with Mexico as a Surgeon; having received his appointment from President Polk.

With sentiments of
high respect I remain
Truly Yours
Wm. F. Bradford

Treasurer's Office, U. S. Mint
Philad^a 23 April 1853

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge your communication of the 21st relative to furnishing a small supply of silver to the New york Assistant Treasury in exchange for Gold. You remark that this may be done under the 4th section of the coinage act, without the necessity of an exchange. But that section contemplates "general regulations" on the subject, by the Director of the Mint, approved by the Secretary of the Treasury, which regulations have not yet been established, for reasons which I believe the Director explains to the Department in a letter of this date. Under such circumstances, I respectfully suggest that an exchange be authorised as proposed by the Assistant Treasurer, or that a draft on the bullion fund, for the sum he requires, "payable in silver coins," be drawn on ~~the bullion~~ me in his favor.

The Chief Coiner delivers, on Monday, some $265,000 in the new silver coin, which will be paid out without delay. Every exertion is made to meet the pressing wants of the public; nevertheless some delay in our payments cannot be avoided.

very respectfully yours

E. C. Dale,

Treasurer

Hon. Jas. Guthrie,
Secry of the Treasy

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia 23 April 1853.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge your communication of the 21st, relative to the Newyork Assay Office, and to the distribution of new silver coins, and at your request respectfully submit the following views on those subjects.

On carefully examining the Assay Office Bill, it will be found that to carry its provisions permanently into effect there will be necessary 1. A receiving and disbursing department; 2. an Assaying department; 3. a Melting and a Refining Department. The officers necessary for those departments will be A Treasurer (who is already designated by law, being the Asst. Treasr. at Newyork); an Assayer; & a Melter & Refiner. To these must be added a Superintendent, in whom is to be vested the general supervision of the establishment.

As a basis of ~~any~~ estimate of the subordinate force necessary in the establishment I am, probably, justified in assuming that all the gold & silver bullion reaching the city of Newyork will be deposited at the Assay Office in preference to being sent to this Mint. That port being at this time the point of destination of most of the returning California Steamers, an estimate of about 40 millions of gold deposits in the Assay Office, is, I think, not exaggerated.

At that estimate, the clerical force necessary will be 1. a clerk to the Superintendent; 2. a weigh clerk; 3. a calculating clerk; 4. an accountant or bookkeeper. I have not included among the clerks one for disbursement of moneys

eys; inasmuch as the "certificates" for the net value of bullion are made payable in the Assistant Treasury Department, and the duty of disbursement will devolve on clerks there. It may also be found practicable to devolve the duty of Accountant on some clerk in the Assistant Treasury, but in the absence of definite information as to the number & duties of the clerks employed in that office, I venture no opinion on ~~[illegible]~~ the matter.) An assistant in the weigh-room, a messenger, and a doorkeeper, all employed at wages, will complete the organization probably required for the departments of the Superintendent & Treasurer.)

In the Assay Department, there should be (besides the Assayer in Chief) an Assistant, of competent scientific & practical knowledge, to be compensated by a Salary; to whom should be added eight workmen at wages.

In the melting & refining department, a distinction should be made as to the organization required for the mere melting of deposits, preparatory to assay & valuation, and that required for the various complicated & expensive operations incident to refining. For the deposit melting a force of about five workmen, and a single apartment would suffice. For the refining operations, and those connected therewith, some thirty workmen, and a very extended space would be requisite. In this Mint, these operations require the occupancy of nearly one half our manufacturing space, and the employment of 34 workmen. At the New York Office, inasmuch as all the gold bullion received from California will require~~s~~ refining, it may be assumed that the refining department should not materially differ, in extent, from that of this Mint. I may add that, so far as the

gold

gold is refined at New York we shall be released from the necessity of a like operation at this Mint, so that the expense of the refining department here will be much reduced.

With respect to the rates of compensation to be allowed to the officers, assistants & workmen, these are by the terms of the law, very much left to the discretion of the President, so that they do not exceed those allowed at the Mint & its branches under existing laws. By these laws, workmen may receive wages "customary & reasonable, according to their respective stations & occupations" (Act of Jan. 18, 1837 § 7 Act of Mar. 3, 1835 § 2) At this Mint, these wages average about $1.75 for services corresponding to those to be performed at the Assay Office; at New Orleans, the wages are probably above $2., in like circumstances. The salaries paid to Superintendents at the Branch Mints are $4,500 at California, $2500 at N. Orleans, $2000 at Charlotte & Dahlonega, and $3500 to the Director at Philadelphia. To Assayers & Melter & Refiners the salaries are $3000 at California, $2000 at New Orleans and Philadelphia, $1500. at Charlotte & Dahlonega. For Assistants the salary is fixed at $1500, which is now received by the Assistant Assayer at Phila; the only Assistant who has been appointed at any of the Mints. The salary of the Treasurer at the proposed assay office is fixed already, by the law, at $6,000. The salaries remaining to be established will be those of the Superintendent, the Melter & Refiner, the Assayer & the Assistant Assayer. For all these offices talents of a high order, and scrupulous integrity are required, and the salaries to be fixed should be such as would secure the certainty of obtaining proper individuals. Considering particularly the great trust & responsibility to be reposed in the Assayer & Melter & Refiner, I doubt if a salary of $2000, as paid at this Mint, would be a fair compensation. It is inadequate in this city, and would be far more so in New York, where the expenses of living are much greater. Probably a salary of $3000 to the Assayer, the same to the Melter & Refiner, and $3500 to the Superintendent would be equitable, and may be allowed under the law. The Assistant Assayer must, until further legislation, be restricted to $1500.

The clerks at this Mint are limited to $1200 salary; at New Orleans they have $1800. & $1500 (see Genl. Appro. Bill 30 Sept. 1850); at San Francisco they are to be allowed $2000. I am at some loss to know what salaries to recommend for New York. They should, probably, not be less than $1500. nor more than $1800.

I have already stated that the *Refining* operations of the Assay Office will require a large space, and the engagement of a numerous force, and it is evident that considerable time would be requisite for its complete organization. The preparations necessary for the mere receipt, melting, assay, valuation, & purchase of bullion, could be completed at an early day. As you intimate a desire that the office should be organized *promptly*, I may suggest that it might be found expedient to rent temporarily a building suited to the purposes of the office, *independently* of refining. At a subsequent day, when the refining establishment shall be complete, the temporary arrangement could cease, and every operation contemplated by law could be carried on. It would, I think, be a matter of regret, if the public convenience which could be subserved by the temporary organization should be sacrificed to the necessity of delay which the establishment of a refinery would demand.

But for the arrangement of all details of organization it will probably prove most convenient as well as economical, for the Department to procure the appointment, ~~at~~ before taking any positive steps as to location, of a Superintendent. Such other officers as may be found necessary, need not be appointed until the Office is nearly ready to be put in operation.

With regard to the other topic to which you have called my attention, namely the regulations for distributing silver coins to certain U.S. officers, I have to request your indulgence for some time, until we shall see some prospect of accumulating a stock of coins applicable to that purpose. At present, the parties who have sold us silver are entitled to be first paid the debt due to them, and I fear it will be several weeks before this is accomplished. Before that time, I shall present, for your approval, the regulations which you require.

Very respectfully
your obt servt

T. M. Pettit
Director

Hon. Jas. Guthrie
Sec. of Treasy
Washington.

Mint of the United States
Philada. 26 April 1853

Sir,

I have the honor herewith to enclose a report of the operations of the Mint & Branches during the first quarter of the present year; and also a comparative statement exhibiting the deposits of gold in the first quarters of 1851, 1852, & 1853 respectively.

very respectfully
your obdt servt

T. M. Pettit
Director

Hon. Jas. Guthrie,
Sec. of the Treasury.

Comparative statement of the deposits of Gold, a
the Mint & Branches, during the first quarters of 1851, 1852 & 1

Mints		1851	1852	1853
Philadelphia	U. S. Gold	$10,732,381	$10,755,557	$15,836,497
	Other Gold	212,345	273,603	140,721
	Total	$10,944,726	11,029,160	15,977,218
New Orleans	U. S. Gold	3,667,575	1,539,071	860,030
	Other Gold	82,237	51,292	24,025
	Total	$ 3,749,812	1,590,363	884,055
Charlotte	U. S. Gold	$ 46,917	104,522	68,633
Dahlonega	U. S. Gold	$ 58,794	62,598	89,033
At all the Mints	U. S. Gold	14,505,667	12,461,748	16,854,193
	Other Gold	294,582	324,895	164,746
	Total	$14,800,249	12,786,643	17,018,939

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia 29 Apr. 1853

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge your letter of the 27th inst.

There can be no doubt that, under the present law regulating the devices of the gold dollar, the introduction of an annular form could not be justified. I supposed that the inquiries of the Department in reference to this subject had in view a recommendation of the matter to Congress, or I would have pointed out the legal difficulties in my former letter.

very respectfully
your obd't serv't

T. M. Pettit
Director

Hon. Jas. Guthrie
Sec. of Treasury
Washington.

Mint of the United States
Philada. 2 May 1853

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge your letter of yesterday, and in reply to state that dies have already been sent to New Orleans, and the Superintendent has been instructed to direct the energetic coinage of the new silver. Your communication of the 27th relative to the difficulty in arranging the devices of an annular coin so as to conform to the restrictions of law was answered on the 29th, and ~~it~~ you have ~~has~~ doubtless ere this received my reply. You will observe that my impression is that to combine devices emblematic of liberty with the annular form will not be possible. I shall however, direct the Engraver to give his attention to the subject, and trust that he may be able to overcome the apparent difficulty.

Very respectfully
J. M. Pettit
Director

Hon. Jas. Guthrie
Sec. of Treasury.

Copy

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia 3d May 1853.

Sir.

I send, by the present mail, three boxes Nos 35, 36 and 37 containing six obverse dime dies for the new coinage. The reverses of the dime and half dime being unchanged in device, you will continue the use of the reverse dies already in your poſseſsion.

The first section of the Coinage Act of Feb. 21st 1853, fixes the weight of the half dollar at 192 grains, the smaller pieces, the 3 cent included (§7 Deficiency Bill) being in proportion. The Dollar of silver is unchanged. By the Deficiency Bill the 3¢ piece is required, hereafter to be 9/10ths fine, but as to this coin, I have to request the manufacture to be suspended, until further Orders.

The 4th Sect of the same act of Feb. 21, provides for the exchange of the subdivisions of a dollar at par for gold in sums not leſs than $100.

The 3d Sect. provides that to procure bullion for the coinage, "the Treasurer of the Mint shall with the Approval of the Director, purchase such bullion with the bullion fund of the Mint. He shall charge himself with the gain arising from the coinage of such bullion into coins of a nominal value exceeding the intrinsic value thereof, and shall be credited with the difference between such intrinsic value and the price paid for said bullion, and with the expense of distributing said coins as hereinafter provided. The balances to his credit, or the profits of said coinage shall from time to time, on a warrant of the Director of the Mint, be transferred to the account of the Treasury of the United States.

In carrying out these provisions of law, the proper method to be pursued in the purchase of silver should first engage attention. At this Mint, with the approval of the Department, we have fixed on certain prices per ounce gross for such classes of silver as were most likely to be offered, at which price any one may sell his silver on presentation of it at the receiving office. I enclose a circular, stating our present tariff.

By the plan adopted we avoid the annoyance and jealousies arising from special contracts. The purchase by weight only, frees us from the losses, or disputes due to receiving coin in a greater or less degree debased by wear.

We have found that the prices fixed, combined with the priority of payment (which as you will see from the circular is secured to the sellers of silver) have been effectual in securing to us an abundant supply of silver. We have thus far received some $2,400,000.

You are instructed to offer the same prices and terms of payment as are adopted at this Mint, and embodied in the enclosed circular. If it should, however, in your judgment, seem that these prices are above the Market rate in New Orleans, I will thank you to inform me without delay. While it is desirable that the fixed prices of the two Mints should be the same, it would be improper to continue at either of them a tariff above the market rate. I may add, in this connection, that in fixing a uniform price for U.S. coin of all standards (except 3 cents) the fact was not overlooked that an advantage was given to sellers of coin issued anterior to 1837. It seemed politic, nevertheless, to allow this advantage, as we shall thereby more certainly secure the re-coinage of all outstanding issues.

When Silver is offered for sale, it should first be examined as to its species and genuineness, and if proper to be purchased it should be weighed. A calculation of the value is then made and the amount paid to the depositor, in gold. At this Mint the weighing clerk has checks, which he fills up with the value payable, and which are paid by the paying clerk on presentation. If the depositor does not desire payment in gold, and prefers to wait until he can receive silver in exchange, he preserves his check to that time, and has thus a voucher of the indebtedness of the Mint.

The form of check is as follows:

Mint of the United States: Silver Bullion.

No. Treasurer's Office, Philadelphia ——

Pay to —— or bearer ——— dollars – cents, for —— ounces of silver at — cts per oz.

———————

$ for the Treasurer

To the Paying Clerk.

I am not informed whether one clerk does or does not perform the duties of receipt and payment at your Mint. If he does, of course some change in forms will be necessary, which will readily suggest themselves to you.

The silver purchased is entered on the Weigh Book in the name of the Treasurer, but a memorandum should be entered in the margin, or interlined, indicating the party from whom it was received. The cost may also be entered on the weigh book. At this Mint it is entered in the margin of the check book.

On making payment to the seller, for the silver purchased, the Clerk should simply record the transaction, in his cash or day book, as "Paid Gold Coins for Silver Purchases No. — $ "

No Journal Entry can be made at this stage, and (as will be soon explained) it can be better made at the end of each month or quarter, to cover a series of transactions, as is your practice in other cases.

Silver thus purchased is treated as in all other cases of Deposits of Silver. The weight is filled up for the Assayer who makes his report on the quality, and the value is calculated as usual, that is at the rate of 412½ grains of standard silver to the dollar. This is the "intrinsic value" to which reference is had in the 3d. section of the silver bill.

The Superintendent's warrant is drawn for that sum, and as a matter of form, receipted by the Treasurer, though of course nothing is to be paid to him. The warrants, thus receipted, constitute a voucher, in due form, for so much money paid from the bullion fund as the "intrinsic" value of the silver thus purchased. The transactions are journalized in all respects as in other cases of deposit of, and payment for, silver bullion, at the close of each month or quarter.

But inasmuch as the Treasurer has paid more than the intrinsic value of the silver, in consequence of the premium, and as the law provides that he shall take credit for this difference between the actual cost and the intrinsic value, it will be necessary for the Superintendent to issue a warra

as follows:

Branch Mint New Orleans,

To the Treasurer.

Charge Profit & Loss on Silver, and credit Gold Coinage

with —— dollars, being the difference between the intrinsic value, in dollars of silver, of silver bullion purchased for coinage, and the price paid therefor from —— to —— 1853

And for so doing this shall be your warrant.

Silver Profit & Loss }
$ —— }

Supt.

This warrant should be accompanied by a statement showing the gross weight of the silver purchased, the cost thereof, the value on assay, estimated in dollars; and reference should be made to the warrants. As an abstract in detail of these particulars is, to a great extent, supplied by the usual abstract of Silver Deposits, it will, I have no doubt, be satisfactory to present them in aggregate only.

In estimating the value of Silver with the Melter & Refiner, and Coiner, you will calculate the standard weight at 412½ grains to the dollar as heretofore. In deliveries of coin by the Chief Coiner he will be credited with the standard weight and the intrinsic value calculated as above. The surplus of Silver coin actually received into the Treasury is, by special warrant, credited to Silver Profit & Loss, and charged to Silver Coinage, precisely as was done in the analogous case of a gain, by coinage, on the three cent pieces.

As the subject may be clearly illustrated by an example, I will suppose that a purchase of 110,000 ounces of Silver is made, @ $1.21 an ounce, costing therefore $133,100. Upon assay, the intrinsic value, estimated in Silver dollars, is found to be $128,000.

The Journal Entries will be — Silver Bullion deposited for Coinage Dr. to E.C.D. Treasurer $128,000 — F. P. Coiner Dr. to Silver bullion deposited for Coinage $128,000 — Silver Coinage Dr. to F. P. Coiner (or to Coiner's a/c of Silver) $128,000, and to Silver Profit & Loss, for gain on coinage $7,500 — E.C.D. Treas. Dr. to Silver Coinage for value of deposit $128,000 (vouched by signed warrants) — Silver Profit & Loss Dr. to Silver Coinage for net premium on Silver (difference between $128,000, & $133,100) = $5,100. You will observe that Silver Coinage is thus made Cr. for the payments on purchase of silver, which will be correct, if the payment is in the new Silver coins. And as a matter of convenience we, at this

Mint, always credit Silver Coinage in like circumstances; at the end of the month or quarter a journal entry is made, charging silver, and crediting gold coinage for such an amount as will [illegible]ke those accounts correspond with the respective amounts of silver coins and gold coins in hand.

If there be any points on which the explanations now presented are not sufficiently clear, you will oblige me by calling my attention to them.

very respectfully
your obd't serv't
(signed) T. M. Pettit
Director

R. M. McAlpin, Esq.
Supt. &c. New Orleans.

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia 13 May 1853

Sir,

I am requested by Judge Pettit, who is unhappily confined to his bed by sickness, to acknowledge your communication of yesterday, asking a conference in relation to the New York assay Office; and after consultation with him, I have to state, in reply, that I shall do myself the honor of calling on you, at the Department, on Monday next.

Very respectfully
your obd^t. serv^t.
Robert Patterson

Hon. Jas. Guthrie,
Sec. of Treasury,
Washington.

Mint of the United States
Philad^a. 23 May 1853.

Sir,

The 4th section of the Mint Act of Jan. 18, 1837 provide "That whenever any officer of the Mint shall be temporari-y absent, on account of sickness, or any other sufficient cause, it shall be lawful for the Director, with the consent of the sai fficer, to appoint some person attached to the Mint to act n the place of such officer during his absence".

Being myself detained from the Mint by sickness, I have taken the authority, under this provision, to designate Rob-rt Patterson, Esq., Directors Clerk, to act for me in my ab-ence, and I now enclose a copy of this appointment. It ppears reasonable that, if the Director can appoint a sub-titute for other officers, he can do so in his own case; but s the language of the law is somewhat obscure, I have to sk the approval of the Department to my action by virtue ereof.

very respectfully
your obt. servt.
T. M. Pettit
Director

Hon. Jas. Guthrie
ec. of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States
Philada. 23 May 1853.

Sir,

Having been attacked by a sickness which will probably cause my temporary absence from the Mint, I avail myself of the authority given to me in such a case, by the 4th section of the Mint Act of Jan. 18th, 1837 to designate you to act in my place until I shall be able to resume my duties.

very truly yours
T. M. Pettit
Director

Robert Patterson, Esq.
U. S. Mint.

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia, May 28, 1853.

Sir,

In reply to your communication of the 21st inst., relative to the disposal made of the *sweeps* of the Mint, I have the honor to present the following statement, which has been delayed in consequence of the Directors sickness, and my own absence from the Mint on public business.

In the various processes of melting, refining, and coining the precious metals, a necessary waste takes place. Some part of the bullion is irrecoverably lost; some is imbibed in the pores of the melting pots, or accumulates in the furnaces, or in the dirt upon the floor, or in the ashes. With a view to reduce the necessary waste to the smallest possible proportion, it is indispensable that all refuse or residues, which may possibly contain traces of precious metal, should be carefully preserved, with a view to their special treatment, in order to extract the bullion masked therein. At this Mint, the pots, furnace linings, dirt, ashes &c. are prepared, by grinding, burning &c. into the state technically called *sweep*, being in fact earth with traces of bullion. Part of the sweep is treated by washing, and precious metal thus recovered; but, for the effectual recovery of the gold & silver, a *smelting* process, with fluxes, and in a proper furnace, are indispensable.

The proper smelting of sweep demands peculiar skill in the workmen, and if the operations are large, an extensive space and apparatus. It is quite certain that it would be impossible for us to smelt, within the present Mint enclosure the large amounts of sweep necessarily accumulated since the heavy receipts of bullion from California. I was in fact not aware that it had ever been the practice to smelt sweep within the Mint, although this has doubtless been represented to you, as you state the complaint to be "that the sweepings of the Gold Coinage are sent to an agent for sale in Europe, instead of being purified, and the gold coined, as was formerly the case, in the Mint." My impression ~~was~~ is that the practice pursued in the disposal of sweep has been this. In the early days of the Mint, the value of this residue was not known, or appreciated, and it was thrown upon the common as worthless dirt. Subsequently it was shipped to England, to the care of P. N. Johnson & Co, of London, who as agents of the Mint disposed of the same to the highest bidders, samples being first taken by the competing smelters, with a view to determine its probable value, by assay. Occasionally, also, sales were made to parties in this country, but the business of smelting sweep not being very extensively pursued here, and the competition consequently being small, these sales were, I believe, not generally satisfactory. I recollect that Mr. McCulloh, while he was Melter & Refiner, made at least one, if not more than one, sale of sweep to a New York Smelter, a fact which leads me to infer that you have misunderstood him as affirming that the sweepings were formerly "purified" in the Mint.

The present practice is to dispose of all our sweeps abroad, generally to the Parisian Smelters who have attained great success in the treatment of such residues. They are generally consigned to the care, and disposal, of Dr. Joseph W. Farnum, whose business and scientific talents, and integrity of character, are fully appreciated by all who~~m~~ have had the opportunity to become acquainted with him. Dr. Farnum was for many years Assayer of the Dahlonega Branch Mint, an office which he resigned, after filling it ~~many years~~ to the entire satisfaction of the Director and the Department. When this gentleman determined to visit Europe, in the year 1850, it was thought a favorable opportunity to secure the best possible disposal of our sweep by consigning it to him, instead of to some unknown, perhaps faithless agent. Since that time, accordingly, every shipment of sweep, ~~has~~ I with but one exception, has been made to him. In the disposal of it he invites the largest competition, and we believe that the prices obtained have been highly favorable.

For his services, Dr. Farnum has, heretofore, charged a commission of ~~half~~ five per cent on the sales, and has remitted one half the probable value of the sweep on its receipt; the balance on sale. By a communication of April 12th last, from Paris, he has however voluntarily tendered much more favorable terms, viz. he reduces his commission to 3½ percent, and offers to "advance the money, for the probable value of the sweep before it leaves the Mint".

very respectfully
your obd't serv't
Robert Patterson
Act'g Director

Hon. Jas. Guthrie,
Sec. of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States,
Philada. 28 May 1853.

Sir,

The sickness of the Director, and my own necessary absence from the Mint, have prevented an earlier reply to your letter of the 20th., relative to some instructions to be given to the Superintendent of the Branch Mint at New Orleans, in view of a communication from Corning & Co, appearing to demand the attention of the Director.

I regret to say that Corning & Co.'s letter was not enclosed with that received from the Department, so that the particular ground of their complaint (if complaint there was) is not known to me. From the weekly statements of the Superintendent, made to this office, it appears that $628,507.03 in silver bullion have been purchased at the New Orleans Mint to the 20th. inst, so that it is evident they have been actively engaged in carrying out the wishes of the Department, and the instructions from this ~~Deposit~~ Office. Any difficulty encountered by Corning & Co in disposing of their bullion must, therefore, in all probability have been already overcome.

very respectfully
your obdt Servt
Robert Patterson
Actg Director

Hon. Jas. Guthrie,
Secy of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States,
Philada. 31 May 1853.

Sir,

It is my painful duty to announce to the Department the decease of the Hon. Thomas M. Pettit, the Director of the Mint.

Judge Pettit died last evening about 7½ o'clock. He had been confined to his bed for some weeks; but although the dangerous nature of his sickness was clearly known, the suddenness of his demise was wholly unexpected.

I presume that, under the appointment as Acting Director made by him, and approved by the Department, I shall be authorised to perform the ordinary official business of this office until the installation of a new Director.

With great respect,
your obt. servt.
Robert Patterson
Acting Director

Hon. James Guthrie,
Secry of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States
Philada June 1, 1853

Sir,

I have the honor to report that Hon. Daniel Sturgeon, the newly appointed Treasurer of the Mint, has this day entered upon the performance of his duties. The count of moneys in the Mint and Assistant Treasury was made yesterday, in the presence of the retiring and incoming Treasurer, and in my own, and the correspondence with the balances stated, was exact.

The balances in these offices were as following.

In the Mint	$552,136.56
In the Assistant Treasury	672,980.64
	$1,225,117.20

A great part of the bullion fund of the Government being in the legal custody of the Melter & Refiner and Chief Coiner, the actual amount of cash in the hands of the Treasurer was, as you will perceive, comparativily small.

very respectfully
your obt. servt
Robert Patterson
Acting Director

Hon. James Guthrie,
Secy of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States,
Philada. 2 June 1853.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge your communication of the 30th ult., in which you refer to the necessity of supplying small coins to the Assistant Treasurers & Depositaries, and request me if practicable to send them such, in the manner deemed most advisable. You indicate, also, the propriety of modifying, or even revoking, the preference now given, in our payments of silver coin, to the sellers of silver bullion, supposing it likely to interfere with or retard the desired delivery to the Depositaries.

In reply, I have to state that, under the equitable and strict construction of the terms on which we purchase silver, the Government, as having furnished the first deposit of over half a million, is entitled to a preference, to that extent, over all subsequent sellers. It will not be necessary, therefore, in order to meet the views of the Department, to revoke the existing regulations as to priority. On the contrary those regulations themselves secure all the accommodation you desire.

I have requested the Chief Coiner to reserve from each future delivery of silver a small amount for the use of the Department in remittance to depositaries, and I am in hopes, before long, to meet the most pressing wants of those officers without disappointing the just expectations of ~~the~~ others having claims on the Mint.

The principal difficulty in complying with the wishes of the Department is one in relation to the Treasurers accountability. Perhaps the general instructions in your letter would operate as his justification in parting with funds in his possession, without specific draft or warrant; but inasmuch as this may be doubtful, I would respectfully suggest that you should issue small transfer drafts on the Treasurer of the Mint, in favor of the depositary, payable in silver coins from the Mint. Or perhaps the simpler course would be that adopted by the Department in authorising the remittance of 3 cents to depositaries. On that occasion the Treasurer was requested to transmit, from time to time, to certain depositaries named, silver coin to the value specified; to be forwarded by Adams & Co., whose receipts should be allowed as a temporary voucher to the Treasurer till replaced by those of the depositaries. He was also requested, from time to time, to forward a statement, accompanied by the above vouchers, showing the amounts sent to the several depositaries. On the receipt of this statement transfer warrants to cover the amounts were issued, on the Treasurer of the Mint to the order of the several depositaries, and these being duly endorsed & returned to the Treasurer, constituted his formal voucher for the diminution of his bullion fund to the extent of his remittances.

I enclose herewith a copy of the Directors instructions to the Supt. at N. Orleans relative to purchases of silver. You will perceive that there was no authority for the delay complained of by Corning & Co.; but, I suppose, that this took place before the instructions were received, and has since been corrected.

Hon. Jas. Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasy

Respectfully, your obt servt
Robert Patterson
actg Director

Mint of the United States,
Philada 6 June 1853.

Sir,

In reply to your communication of the 4th inst, I have the honor to state that your instructions relative to the transmission of silver to depositaries &c. will have due attention, and the same course will be pursued as was adopted in the distribution of three-cent pieces under similar circumstances; it will, therefore, be unnecessary to issue drafts until after the presentation of the account of sums remitted.

The conflict of language between the letters from this office of the 2d inst and of April 23d is apparent only. The silver purchased by the United States was not actually entered as a deposit in the Mint until after very heavy amounts had been received from individuals. The latter had a technical preference in order of payment over the Government deposit until the debt was satisfied; which, being now the case, of course the Government has a preference over all subsequent depositors.

very respectfully
your obdt. Servt.

James Ross Snowden.
Director

Hon. Jas. Guthrie,
Sec. of Treasury.

Mint of the United States
Philada. 18 June 1853.

Sir,

The Director of the Mint, being temporarily absent in Pittsburg, whither he has gone to make arrangements for the removal of his family to Philadelphia, I have the honor now simply to acknowledge your communication of the 16th, relative to the supply of silver to New Orleans Mint, a full reply being deferred till the Directors return.

very respectfully
your obdt. servt.
Robert Patterson
for the Director.

Hon. Jas. Guthrie,
Secy of the Treasy.

Treasurer's Office, U. S. Mint,
Philada. 21 June 1853.

Sir,

Mr. Robert D. Dunning, a clerk to the Treasurer of the Mint, having announced his intention to resign his office, I have the honor, under the Joint Resolution of March 3d. 1851, to nominate for your approval William Henry Sturgeon, of Uniontown, Pennsylvania, as a suitable person to fill the vacancy thus to be created.

very respectfully,
your obdt. servt.

Danl. Sturgeon
Treasurer

Hon. James Guthrie,
Secy of the Treasury,
Washington.

Mint of the United States
Philada. 23 June 1853.

Sir,

I have duly considered your letter of the 16th. enclosing a communication from Mr. Forstall of New Orleans, in which he states his desire to furnish silver to the Branch Mint in that city, at $1.21 an ounce, the price fixed by the present tariff. You ask me whether it is in my opinion desirable to enter into any such arrangement for purchase with Mr. Forstall, and under what limitations as to times and amounts of purchase.

In a communication from this office of the 31st. ult., there was enclosed a letter of instructions from the Director to the Superintendent at New Orleans, requiring him to purchase silver, from all parties offering, at the prices fixed for this Mint. At the close of the week ending June 10th. there had been purchased, at those prices, as much as $1,128,064.03 I am at a loss, therefore, to understand Mr. Forstall's remark that the Mint in New Orleans "as yet has taken no steps on the subject." If the Mint has declined to purchase of Mr. Forstall it is not from defect of instructions but perhaps from an insufficient supply of gold in the bullion fund wherewith to make payment. I shall institute inquiry of the Superintendent on the subject.

As Mr. Forstall's letter and that of the Department seem to contemplate a transaction in which a definite contract is to be made with him as to the supply of silver, I would state that it is, in my opinion, far preferable for the Mint to have a fixed price, to be paid, not to one or a few individuals who may be specially contracted with, but to all who may have bullion to sell. By this plan not only are all jealousies avoided, but I am sure the silver is more abundantly supplied from the extensive competition of dealers.

I may mention that the propriety of a reduction in the tariff, or price per ounce, to be paid for silver, is now under my consideration. In a few days I shall probably have the honor to present a revised tariff to your consideration. If a reply to Mr. Forstall's letter should be thought necessary at this time, ~~it~~ he should be made to understand that any bullion he brings forward may be subjected to such reduced price.

I have the honor to be
very respectfully
your obd't serv't

James Ross Snowden
Director

Hon. Jas. Guthrie,
Secy of the Treasy.

P. S. I arrived to day from Pittsburgh.
J. R. S.

Mint of the United States,
Philada 24 June 1853.

Sir,

A letter received this morning from Jacob Barker of the Bank of Commerce, New Orleans, confirms what was stated in Mr. Forstall's letter to the Department, respecting which I wrote to you yesterday, that the Branch Mint declines to receive silver offered to it for sale under the terms of the Mint tariff. Mr. Barker states that he was informed by the Treasurer "that he could not receive any specie except from those who contracted with the Mint at Phila., - Corning & Co., the Banks, and W. W. White & Co." This remark, if correctly reported, appears quite unintelligible. On referring to a letter of the Department, of April 15th, I find that mention is made by you of a contract with Corning & Co to deliver silver at N. Orleans, and it occurs to me that the correspondence on your files, relative to the supply of silver at the Branch Mint, may be important to me in deriving an explanation of what at present appears unintelligible in the conduct of the officers there. I have therefore to ask you to favor me with copies of all such correspondence, & or if the originals were forwarded they could be returned again, and thus save time & trouble.

I enclose, herewith, a copy of the proposed new tariff for the purchase of silver which, if not disapproved by the Department, I propose to have issued. The prices are conformed to an estimate based on the latest London quotations for Silver.

I have the honor to be, with great respect

Your obdt servt

James Ross Snowden

Director.

Hon. Jas. Guthrie,
Sec. of Treasury
Washington.

P. S. The proposed change in our tariff for Silver can properly be made, in view of the fact that the present price is too high, and the adoption of the new rates will save considerable expense to the Government. If it should possibly check, temporarily, the receipts of bullion, this would be advantageous rather than otherwise, as our accumulated stock is already very large.

E. R. S.

Mint of the United States
Philada. 27 June 1853

Sir,

I find that your letter of the 19th of April last, to my predecessor, Judge Pettit, was only partially answered on the 20th of the same month. I have called the attention of Mr Longacre, the Engraver, to the subject of preparing devices for the three dollar gold piece. He is now engaged upon them, and when finished I will send them to you. I may also add that experiments will be prosecuted, without unnecessary delay, having in view the improvement in the form of the gold dollar, as heretofore suggested by the Department. The great pressure upon the Mint has prevented a more early attention to the matter.

I take occasion to acknowledge your communication of the 25th in relation to the subject of Silver coinage, & the Mint prices for Silver. This subject is engaging my earnest attention, and I hope to be able to reply to morrow.

I have the honor to be
very respy your obdt servt

James Ross Snowden
Director

Hon. Jas. Guthrie
Secy of the Treasy.

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia 28 June 1853

Sir,

Your communication of the 24th. inst, relative to the supply and purchasing price of silver, under the late law, have been carefully considered, and, as you have requested, I now present to you my views thereon. In the first place, however, I have to reply to the specific inquiries propounded by you.

1. The capacity of this Mint, in the coinage of silver, with the proportions of 40 percent half dollars, 40 p.c. quarters, 15 p.c. dimes and 5 p.c. half dimes, is stated by the Chief Coiner to be $800,000 a month in his department, and the Melter & Refiner undertakes to ~~fu~~ furnish ingots for that rate of coinage. At the New Orleans Mint, I estimate that the coinage could not exceed $200,000 a month, in the same proportions of silver coin.

2. At this Mint, the amount of silver bullion received for coinage, under the new law, is $4,740,597 up to the present date; at New Orleans, up to the 17th. inst, the amount had reached to $1,209,636

3. The amount coined, of the new silver, and put into circulation, is $1,577,000 at this Mint; at New Orleans no coinage had been delivered, at the last report, owing as I believe to the change about to take place in the Treasurership.

From the above statement it appears that, thus far, the bullion received at this Mint has been a little

little over three times as large as the amount coined. But, at the first outset, it might have been anticipated that our preparations for silver coinage would be inadequate. A more important comparison is that between our present capacity and the present receipts. Looking to the experience of this month, I may safely estimate the total silver deposits at $700,000, and the coinage at $650,000. This exhibits a slight excess in the rate of deposits over the coinage, but as I estimate our future coinage at $800,000 a month it appears quite probable that our capacity hereafter will exceed the current rate of deposits.

Nevertheless the fact is not to be overlooked that the present indebtedness of the Mint for silver purchases is $3,163,597, which yet remains to be paid for in silver coin. This is equivalent to about four months coinage. It is difficult to estimate the rate of our future receipts. Let us suppose them to average $500,000 per month, for 11 mos. to come. This would give a total receipt of $5,500,000 which added to the stock now on hand gives $8,663,597 This amount is but slightly below 11 months coinage at $800,000 a month, from whence it appears probable that at least that period must elapse before this Mint will have settled its present & prospective liabilities for silver purchases. At New Orleans the present liabilities are equal to, I suppose, six months coinage, and without pretending to a strict estimate, I may safely assume that nearly a year will elapse before that Mint is freed of its accrued & accruing debt for silver

Taking into view, therefore, only the present circumstances of the Mints it would be desirable that the rate of receipts of silver bullion should be checked rather than increased, and, in my letter of the 25th enclosing a ~~for~~ revised tariff for Silver purchases, I stated that no disadvantage would accrue in such an event. And having given still further consideration to the whole subject, in consequence of your letter, I must still express a doubt as to the policy of the Mint burdening itself with a debt which it is not possible for it to pay for many months, perhaps even for a year.

I have not, however, been insensible to the considerations of State policy urged in your letter. It is certainly of such moment to us to effect a change in the commercial [illegible] affairs of Mexico & the U.S., as will restore us to our ancient trade with that country, that I should be very loth to interpose any obstacle to such a result. At this Mint, I have no reason to believe that our silver purchases have as yet brought us a dollar from Mexico which would not have been in the country without our action. At New Orleans you intimate that the case has been different, and the letter of Mr. Forstall shows that it will be possible to rely upon Mexico for the whole future supply of bullion required for the silver coinage at the Branch Mint, supposing at least the present prices to be unchanged. Will the slight change of price proposed in the new schedule have the effect of checking that supply? To answer this question satisfactorily would require an examination into the commercial relations of Mexico with England & the U.S., and the cost of remitting specie to the two countries, on which questions I am, at present, not fully informed. But assuming the cost of shipping from Vera Cruz to England to be the same as that to the U.S., we may compare London prices of silver with our Mint prices as a basis by which to test the relative profitableness of shipping hither or to England.

Taking this test I find that during the months of May and June (to the last report) the quotations of silver dollars, in London, were $\overset{s}{4}.\overset{d}{11}\frac{1}{4}$ per oz., equivalent to $1.20, estimating the pound sterling at $4.86 When our first tariff was fixed the London price was $\overset{s}{4}.\overset{d}{11}\frac{3}{4}$, equal, at the same estimate, to $1.21 an ounce, which rate was accordingly fixed upon as a basis.

The inclination of my mind is that, considering the contiguity of Mexico and the U.S., we can safely look to supplies of silver from that quarter if we fix our prices at those of London, and in this view, guided also by other considerations, I fixed the tariff which I have already sent to you. If, however, under all the circumstances of the case you should deem it best to postpone, for the present, any change in our tariff of prices, I will cheerfully accede to that view.

Allow me to remark, in conclusion, that I will make every exertion to increase the amount of coinage beyond the amount before stated. At this season of the year you are aware that not so much labor can be performed as at other times.

I have the honor to be,
very respy your obdt servt

James Ross Snowden.
Director

Hon. Jas. Guthrie,
Secy of the Treasy

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia 28 June 1853.

Sir,

In a letter from the Department of the 14th of April the desire was expressed that we should extend, as far as possible, our exchanges of gold coin for silver bullion, to be coined under the late law, and an additional transfer to our bullion fund was offered, if it could be made available for that object. In the reply, from this office, it was stated that our means were then sufficient for all the payments required of us, whether in the purchase of silver bullion, or in the discharge of gold deposits, but that, should future circumstances render an increase desirable the Department would be promptly notified.

I have now to state that, by reason of the combined demand on our bullion fund, both for purchases of silver and for payment of gold deposits, it has become inadequate to the requirements of the Treasury, and that an additional transfer to that fund is necessary to enable the Mint to continue prompt payments.

The following facts, exhibiting our transactions in relation to the purchases of silver, will sufficiently explain the encroachments upon the gold coin reserved in our bullion fund, and the consequent necessity of an increase.

The total value of the silver purchased by the Mint, from April 1st to this date, is $4,741,597. Of this amount, $1,577,000. have been paid for in

new

new silver coin, $1,834,418 in gold coin, and the balance unpaid (and uncalled for) is $1,329,179. From this it appears that $1,834,418 of our gold coin have been expended in the purchase of a like amount of silver bullion, at present unavailable for payments.

In consequence of the heavy deposits of gold now, and for some time past, received at the Mint, our gold bullion fund, though abundant, was by no means excessive, to meet the current payments for deposits, and to supply the operative officers with a stock to keep them in active and constant employment. Since the silver bill, and the purchases consequent thereon, the Department has nominally increased our fund by $1,222,564; but of this amount $522,564 being in silver bullion, and unavailable for payments, it follows that the increase applicable to purchases has been but $700,000. We have actually expended, as appears by the above statement, $1,834,418, from which deduct the $700,000 lately furnished by the Department, and it is evident that our bullion fund applicable to payment of gold deposits, is $1,134,418 less than it was anterior to the passage of the silver bill. These explanations are made to show that the increase in our bullion fund, which I find it necessary to ask for, is due to unavoidable circumstances, and not to any lack of energy and activity in the operations of the Mint.

With regard to the amount of transfer adequate to the requirements of the Treasury, I have to present the following facts as the basis of a right judgment.

From the newspaper reports, it appears that over $2,000,000 of gold may be daily expected at the Mint from California. To pay for this amount, there will be probably available, bars to the value of $1,000,000 (all of which will be required by the depositors), and coin to the amount of $650000. Leaving out of consideration the demands on our Treasury for silver purchases, and for outstanding gold deposits, it appears probable that an addition~~al~~ to the bullion fund of at least $350,000 in gold coin will be necessary to enable the Treasurer to make prompt payment of the daily anticipated deposit of gold bullion. But looking to the contingencies of the future, and the necessity of continuing the purchases of silver, I recommend that at least $500,000 be, without unnecessary delay, transferred to the Mint Treasury by order of the Department. The whole of this may, perhaps, be conveniently spared from the Assistant Treasury here. If not, it is hoped that at least a considerable part of the amount will be drawn on that office, as otherwise an inconvenient delay may be experienced in replenishing our bullion fund to meet impending demands.

I have the honor to be
with great respect
Your obt. Servant,
James Ross Snowden,
Director.

Mint of the United States
Philada 30 June 1853

Sir,

I nominate Mr. Henry R. Linderman, of Carbon County, Penn, as Clerk to the Director, in place of Mr. Robert Patterson resigned, and respectfully request that you will procure the Presidents approval of the same, pursuant to the 3d section of the Act of Jan. 18, 1837 relating to the Mint.

I have the honor to be,
with the highest respect
your obdt. servt,

James Ross Snowden
Director

Hon. Jas. Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington.

July 2. 1853
Approved Fr. Pierce

Jas. R. Snowden
Director of the Mint

Mint of the United States
Philada. 30 June 1853.

Sir,

In consequence of the change in the Treasurership of the Mint, which took effect on the 1st inst., it became the duty of my predeceſsor, Mr. Dale, to prepare a full statement of his accounts, accompanied by the usual voluminous abstracts, for the two months ending May 31st ult.

If I pursued the former usages of the Mint, by which full accounts are presented at the close of each quarter, it would be neceſsary for me to have prepared an account for the single month of June. Such an account will involve great labor, nearly as much in fact as one for a full quarter, and I am loth at this time, when the clerks have been and continue to be greatly pressed with ordinary business, to burden them with it unless absolutely neceſsary. It has occurred to me, therefore to ask the approval of the Department for the omiſsion of the account for this single month of June, and that I may be allowed to combine it with the account which it becomes necessary to prepare in the next quarter.

I have the honor to be
very respectfully Yr.

Hon. Jas. Guthrie
Sec. of Treasury.

Dan'l Sturgeon
Treasurer

Mint of the United States
June 30, 1853

Sir

There is now at the Custom House in New York a box containing an Assay balance for the use of the Mint, Marked United States Mint, Assay office consigned to Edward Sanford & Co. New York. Also at the Custom House in this city (Phil.a) a box directed Assay office U. S. Mint Phil. As these articles were procured for the use of the Mint by order of Dr Eckert former Director I will thank you to instruct the Collector of Customs at the above cities to permit their delivery without the payment of duties, and as the articles are of a delicate construction, without opening the boxes

I have the honor to be
with great respect
Your obdt Servant

James Ross Snowden
Director

Hon: Jas Guthrie
Sec. of Treasury

Snowden

Mint of the United States
Philada. 5 July 1853.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge your communication of the 2d. inst., in relation to the proposed tariff on Silver coin.

Your suggestion that a right to retain 25 per cent of the coinage in Silver, at both Mints, should be reserved, appears a highly proper one, and a clause to that effect will be embodied in the proposed circular.

With regard to the limitation you propose, in the purchases at New Orleans, that drafts on New york may be substituted for cash, when desirable, I should be glad, before giving any instructions to that Mint, to learn in what way you propose that such drafts should be issued. If a separate Treasy draft has to issue for each purchase, this will give rise to much trouble & delay, and no doubt prove very unsatisfactory; yet I do not see how otherwise the transaction is to be managed. If a credit could be opened, at New york, in favor of the Treasurer of the Branch Mint, allowing him to draw his checks for any part thereof, the matter would be much simplified. I shall be obliged to you for some information on this point, at your convenience.

I have the honor to be very respectfully
your obdt. Servt.
James Ross Snowden,
Director.

Hon. Jas. Guthrie
Sec. of Treasy.

Mint of the United States.
Philada. July 6. 1853.

Sir.

I have your favor of the 5th inst. We can furnish the Treasurer of the United States with the Coin requested. You will please cause a draft to be issued in his favor on the Assistant Treasurer at Phila. On the presentation of which properly endorsed the amount will be forwarded per Messrs Adams & Co's Express.

I have the honor to be
with great respect
your obt. servant,

James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City

Mint of the United States
Philada. 6 July 1853.

Sir,

I have the honor herewith to enclose the bond of Robert S. Patton, Clerk to the Branch Mint, Dahlonega, which I have certified to be to my satisfaction.

very respectfully
your obt Servt

James Ross Snowden.
Director

Hon. Jas. Guthrie }
Sec. of Treasury. }
Washington City.

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia 8 July 1853.

Sir,

I have received your communication of yesterday, and in reply I have to inform you that I shall institute the inquiries you request into the qualifications of Mr. Albert Stuart for the office of Engraver~~ship~~ of the Mint.

Permit me to mention, however, that I shall at an early day address the Department with the expression of some views, which I deem important, in regard to a re-organization of the Engraving Department of the Mint, and I have to request that no change of officers be made, until these views have been presented.

I have the honor to be
with great respect,
your obdt. servt.

James Ross Snowden,
Director

Hon. Jas. Guthrie
Secy of the Treasy
Washington.

Mint of the United States.
Philada. July 14. 1853.

Sir,

I have your favor of the 13th inst, enclosing a letter from G. W. Caldwell Esqr. Supt. Branch Mint at Charlotte N. Ca. dated 5th inst.

For the reasons stated by Mr. Caldwell and in compliance with a custom heretofore existing I have given him permission to suspend operations from the middle of August until the 30th of September of the ~~present~~ current year.

I have the honor to be
very Respectfully
your obt. servt.

James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. P. G. Washington,
Acting Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City.

Mint of the United States.
Philada. July 19. 1853.

Sir,

Without absolutely negativing the ability of Mr. Albert Stewart for the office of Engraver of the Mint, I am Constrained to say that the evidences before me do not exhibit such artistic skill and experience as our Coinage needs, or such as would satisfy the just expectations of the Department and the public.

As I have full knowledge of your desire to improve the coinage, in which I most Cordially Concur, I embrace this occasion to present some suggestions on that subject, and in doing so I shall relieve myself from the appearance of foreclosing the claims of Mr. Stewart and the recommendation of his friends.

The Department is well acquainted with the clause in the law of the last Seſsion of Congreſs which empowers the Director, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, to engage the services of artists in preparing devices and original dies, for the Silver Coins authorised by the act of March 3, 1851, Sect. 7th and perhaps the same provision may be considered applicable to the three dollar gold Coin, authorised by the act of 21st Feb. 1853. Whatever may be the determination of government in relation to the change of incumbency in the Office of Engraver of the Mint, I am satisfied that these enactments afford the best and readiest means of attaining the desired improvements. With the requisite permission from yourself, I shall at once make application to engravers in this Country to furnish designs on paper for the obverse and reverse of the Silver series and the three dollar gold Coin. These designs having been examined and Compared both here and at the Department, and a preference expressed, I shall then give the artists an opportunity, with promise of sufficient remuneration, to execute a pair of dies, say of half-dollar dies, from the designs selected. When these are returned to us, we shall be in a position to de justice to the Coinage, so far as the state of art in our Country will allow, and the government will be able to decide who is best qualified to hold the permanent office of Engraver, - and we can then proceed to improve the entire series of Silver and gold Coinage. There are several artists in this Country of whose high reputation in this line I have some knowledge. Among these I may mention Mr. F. N. Mitchell of Boston, Mr. C. C. Wright of New York, and Mr. J. B. Welsh of Philad.a I send you per Messrs Adams & Co's Express two medals executed by Mr. Mitchell, and one executed by Mr. Wright. The large military medals which grew out of the Mexican war were executed by the last named gentleman, and have been generally admired. These gentlemen and others would be Competitors, and I should give a like opportunity to Mr. Stewart, and to Mr. Longacre the present Engraver, and such others as may occur to me or be suggested by yourself and others. This plan of

Competition is sustained by the Act of Congreſs, and we have the examples of France and England, where the best work is procured by similar means. You will observe that this proceeding goes no further than to obtain *original* dies;—the *working* dies, ~~and~~ which last but a few days, are produced from the originals by a proceſs chiefly mechanical, and only require to be touched up and dated by a resident engraver who may or may not be at the head of his profeſsion.

It seems proper, in the event of the adoption of the plan proposed, to inquire whether it would meet your views to leave the designs to the fancy and judgment of the artist, or whether some general leading directions should be prescribed.

It is not easy to determine what should be the appropriate devices for a republican Coin. There is certainly much dissatisfaction with those heretofore and at present adopted, either because they have become stale and monotonous, or are really inexpressive. A woman's head on a half draped female figure conveys so little of the idea of civil and political liberty, that the addition of the word "Liberty" was prudently adopted to help out the meaning. This addition it is true may cover the defect. The eagle also is so far from being exclusively American or republican that it is employed as an emblem for despotic Russia and Austria, and other monarchies of the Old World; but whilst it is liable to that objection, and is moreover a difficult subject to manage effectively in coinage, it is to be considered whether it should be abandoned especially in view of its giving a name to most of our gold series. The *pileus* or liberty-cap placed by the Romans upon the head of a slave in token of his manumission has been very much used and is perhaps a worn-out idea. The Greek emblem of liberty was a horse or head of a horse without a bridle. It may well be considered whether there is any necessity for our going back so far or seeking for emblems of doubtful expressiveness. We should endeavor to adopt such designs as would be expressive of our institutions, and peculiar to our Country. The difficulty is in the preparation of such designs as ~~would~~ will unite beauty with propriety, and be at the same time suitable for Coinage. It has been suggested to place the head of Washington on our Coin. From the time of Caesar people have looked to the image on the Coin to determine who was the sovereign; but where the sovereignty resides in the people, it would seem that the head on the Coin should be strictly impersonal; and yet as the name of Washington has become a synonym for freedom, and though purely American, yet regarded every where as the most Complete emblem of modern liberty, I have deemed it proper to suggest it for your Consideration. The head of an Indian with head dress of plumes is generally adopted as an emblem of America. Such a design would be significant of our Country, and an appropriate and striking emblem of liberty. An open volume bearing the word Constitution, might be a fit emblem and display our bonds of union. A bundle of thirty one arrows gracefully united by a tie or a festoon of thirty one wreaths would express the same idea. A combination of our staple products from the North, South, East and West might be emblematic of the extent and unity of our Country. Some such ideas as these may lead to better ones and give us the high satisfaction of presenting to the Country some new and striking devices, and a real improvement in the national currency.

I have the honor to be,
with great respect,
your Obt. servant,

James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City.

Mint of the United States.
Philada. July 21st. 1853.

Sir;

On a careful consideration of the question of a change in the price of silver purchased for Coinage I have arrived at the conclusion that we had better adhere to the present rates.

Circumstances may hereafter render a change necessary, but in view of the present value of silver here and in Europe the existing tariff of prices should not be disturbed.

I concur with you in the propriety of retaining 25 pr. cent. for the use of the government; your suggestion in that particular and also as to the manner of payments at New Orleans I have embraced in a circular, a copy of which I send you, which I propose to issue immediately if it meets your views. In order that I may give the proper instructions I will be glad to learn in what manner you propose to make the payments at New Orleans.

I take this occasion to say that in view of the large amount of silver bullion now in the Mint and the necessity of supplying the public demands as rapidly as possible I have adopted measures to increase the Coinage and have others in contemplation which I hope will enable us greatly to exceed the estimate which I gave you in my letter of the 28th ulto.

I have the honor to be
with great respect
Your obt. servant,

James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington City.

Mint of the United States.
Philad^a. July 21. 1853.

Sir,

In reply to your favor of the 19th inst. I have the honor to state that Mr. George Eckfeldt our Superintendent of dies and Machinery would in all respects be a suitable person to perform the duties stated by you. He is an able and experienced Mechanic and of good and reliable judgment. It was under his supervision that the Branch Mint at Charlotte, N. C^a was put in operation. His services are so important to us here that I have to request, in case you send him to California, that his absence should be made as short as possible consistently with the duties to be assigned him. I have also to ask what compensation will be given him.

I have the honor to be
Very Respectfully Y^r. Ob^t. Serv^t.
James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon: J. Guthrie
Sec. of the Treas'y Washⁿ. D. C.

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia 26 July 1853.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge your favor of the 21st inst., approving the suggestions which I had the honor to present on the subject of improving the character of the coinage.

In regard to the preparation of designs, I have so far altered the plan proposed as to invite the cooperation of artists, engravers, and persons of taste generally. This will produce a more general competition, and relieve us from the necessity of selecting the persons who will compete, and thus prejudging their qualifications. The making of the dies, from the designs selected, is the work only of artists limited in number, and we may not find it necessary to give so general a competition in their preparation, but only to select those who are skilled in that particular. But on this subject I will confer with you when it shall have become necessary to act.

I enclose a copy of my notice to the public for your inspection.

I have the honor to be,
with great respect,
your obd't serv't

James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie,
Sec'y of the Treasury,
Washington.

Circular.   Mint of the United States
Philadelphia 26 July 1853.

The Director of the Mint, under the sanction of the 7th section of the act of March 3, 1853, authorising new devices for the silver coinage of the United States, and with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, invites the co-operation of artists, engravers, and other persons of taste to aid him in effecting that object, and requests such as may be so disposed to forward to him, before the first day of October next, such designs as they may deem appropriate to that coinage.

The law having imposed no restrictions in relation to the ~~coin~~ devices, the Director abstains from advancing any suggestions on the subject, it being his wish that the designer should be entirely untrammelled in the exercise of his judgment & skill.

An impartial examination will be made of the designs which may be furnished in accordance with this request; and for those three which shall appear best fitted to the object in view, a competent and liberal remuneration will be made.

(signed) James Ross Snowden
Director.

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia 28 July 1853.

Sir,

I have communicated to Mr. Geo. Eckfeldt the contents of your letter of the 26th, and he is prepared to proceed to California on the terms mentioned, with this explanation, however, that his compensation which is to be deducted from his bill of expenses shall be at the rate of $3.80 per diem (his actual pay) and not $2000. per annum as you have directed. You have erroneously assumed, I suppose, that Mr. Eckfeldt's salary was $2000.; it is in fact only what has been mentioned. Mr. Eckfeldt is not an officer, but the foreman of the machinery.

I have the honor to be
with great respect Yr. obt. Servt.

James Ross Snowden
Director

Hon Jas. Guthrie
Secy of the Treasury
Washington.

Mint of the United States
Philada. 28 July 1853.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your communications of the 26th & 27th inst., relating respectively to the procuring of supplies for the California Mint and to an estimate for the New York Assay Office. These subjects have already partially received attention, and I hope to be able to report upon them at an early day.

I have the honor to be
with great respect
your obt. Servt.

James Ross Snowden,
Director

Hon. Jas. Guthrie
Secy of the Treasury,
Washington.

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia 30 July 1853.

Sir,

By the 30th. section of the Mint Act of Jan. 18th. 1837, with regard to payments to depositors, it is declared "that in the denominations of coins delivered the Treasurer shall comply with the wishes of the depositor, unless when inconvenient or impracticable to do so, in which case the denominations of coin shall be designated by the Director."

It is undoubtedly a wise public policy to endeavor, by all proper methods, to infuse the largest possible amount of specie into actual hand to hand currency, and it is quite certain that, to effect that object, so far as gold is concerned, the coin should be of the smaller denominations. The double-eagle may be considered as practically useless for the purposes of such a circulation as I refer to. It rarely passes beyond banks or sub-treasuries, or if it does so, it is returned forthwith. The smaller denominations, particularly from the half-eagle down, when once paid out to the people are apt to remain outstanding in circulation, and to that extent to supplant the small paper currency.

It has appeared to me, from a view of these facts, that it would be wise for the Mint, for a time at least to restrict itself to the coinage of the eagle, half-eagle, quarter-eagle & dollar, in the proportion of, say one half of the two first, and half of the two last denominations. At present it will be very convenient for us to do this, since in consequence of the heavy amounts of bullion cast into refined bars, our coinage of gold is greatly diminished

ished. I do not doubt my authority to direct in what proportions the coins should be issued, but inasmuch as the grounds of policy which would influence me in the step I have suggested might not seem as clear to the Department as to myself, I have to ask your approval to the proportions of coinage I have indicated, or that you will suggest what other proportion may seem to you advisable.

I have the honor to be
with great respect
Your obdt. Servt.

James Ross Snowden.
Director

Hon. James Guthrie
Secy of the Treasury.
Washington City.

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia 1 Aug. 1853.

Sir,

The Treasurer of the Branch Mint, New Orleans, has inclosed to me a copy of your instruction to him, of the 9th ult., in regard to course to be adopted by him in the purchase of Mexican dollars, which he finds to be in conflict with the tariff and instructions from this office. He desires me to give him such further explanations as will ~~enable~~ relieve him from the doubts and perplexity occasioned by that conflict.

By the tariff prepared at this office, and approved by the Department, it is declared that "for dollars of Mexico, Peru, Bolivia, Chili & Spain; for francs; and for silver coin of the United States, other than the three-cents," – the price to be paid is "$1.21 an ounce gross".

In the construction of this clause, the course pursued at this Mint, and directed to be pursued at New Orleans, is, when silver is offered to examine it as to its species and genuineness, and, if proper to be purchased, to have it weighed, and paid for at once, according to the scale fixed by the tariff. If the coin is not of the species declared, – that is, if other coin not of that scale of price be mixed with it; – if it be not genuine, that is if there be counterfeits therein; the Mint would reject the same, or purchase it only on the value by assay, at $1.21 per ounce standard, under a different clause of the same tariff.

Except under such circumstances as I have intimated it has never been either the practise, or in contemplation at the Mint, to require an assay anterior to the purchase of bullion offered to it. The inconveniences of such a practice would be very great, and would tend very seriously, I think, to check our purchases. Under the simple plan at present adopted by us, the owner of bullion has but to ascertain its weight, and he has himself the means of determining its value, and the desirableness of a sale, anterior to its remittance to the Mint. But if he is subjected to the hazards of loss on assay, there is a strong probability that he will hesitate to part with his bullion to us. He will perhaps adopt the opinion (and there will not be wanting those who may find it their interest to suggest it to him) that the assay of the Mint will be just such as may be found convenient, and will always enure to the benefit of the purchaser. Or if he will not think us unjust, there will be constant suggestions of mistake or neglect, and complaints of disappointment. By the present practise all this is avoided.

If it were the case, as the Department suggests, that Mexican dollars have lately been degraded by alloy so as to fall below their former standard, it would be necessary to alter the terms of our tariff, so as to require purchases of such coin only after assay. But so far as our experience goes, at this Mint, instead of a degradation of Mexican dollars there has actually been an elevation in fineness. Our assays here, and our experience in the preparation of ingots, clearly show this to have been the case as far as relates to the dollars received by us, and nothing reported to me from New Orleans is at variance with it.

In fixing the tariff, it was not thought expedient to make a material difference in price for a difference of a few thousandths in fineness. Accordingly we find in the same class, American coin of old & new standard, and dollars of Peru, Bolivia, Chili & Spain; and francs; covering a range of fineness which may extend from 892½ to 902 thousandths. It was deemed of more importance that the Mints should be abundantly supplied, which was more likely to be the case by simplifying its terms of purchase, than that ~~it~~ they should realise a slight economy, perhaps at a hazard of deficiency of material, by a nice adjustment of prices to quality. It was expected that the bullion received by us would, on the average, be of a fineness which would justify our price, and encourage sales, and such has accordingly been the fact.

The Department has it in its power, at any moment that an attempt may be made to take a fraudulent advantage of our terms of purchase, to correct those terms; but, as far as I am advised, nothing has yet appeared to require a change. I need hardly say that I should promptly interfere to correct any such abuse if attempted.

I have been thus particular in explaining the practice of this Mint with regard to purchases, because there is a manifest variance between that practise and what has been prescribed by you to the Branch Mint, New Orleans. If, on further reflection, you should be of opinion that our practise is erroneous, it appears to me indispensable that the wording of your published tariff should be changed, since, as it stands at present, the seller will have a right to complain if the value of his bullion is determined by special assay, when it belongs to the specified classes purchaseable by weight only.

This apparent conflict of instructions from the Department, and from this office, prompts me to suggest, which I do with great deference, that all directions to the Superintendents, or other officers of the Branch Mints, relative to the conduct of their offices, should more immediately emanate from the Director of the Mint, of course in subordination to the Department. Any other course will destroy the unity of action which is indispensable to the proper regulation of the Branch Mints, in view of the public interests involved, and the legal enactment which places them under the direction of the Director of the Mint, subject to the approbation of the Secretary of the Treasury (act Mar. 3/35 § 4)

I have the honor to be,
with great respect
Your obdt. servt.

James Ross Snowden.
Director

Hon Jas. Guthrie
Sec. of Treasury
Washington.

Mint of the United States
Philada. 2 Aug 1853

Sir,

I have to acknowledge your communication of yesterday, enclosing a correspondence from Corning & Co relative to alleged grievances sustained by them in the sale of silver to the Branch Mint, New Orleans.

As I have no doubt the difficulty has arisen from those gentlemen having been credited only with the assay value of their bullion, or $1,21 an ounce standard, instead of $1.21 an ounce gross, I await your reply to my letter of yesterday on this subject before pursuing a special inquiry.

I have the honor to be
with great respect
your obdt servt

James Ross Snowden.
Director

Hon. James Guthrie
Secy of the Treasury
Washington.

Mint of the United States
Philada. Aug. 4, 1853.

Sir,

I herewith submit to your consideration designs for the three dollar gold coin, which have been prepared by Mr. Longacre, Engraver of the Mint. I also enclose his letter submitting them to me.

It is important to have the devices on this coin somewhat dissimilar to those on the quarter-eagle, which it so nearly resembles in size, and with that view, and also because it is characteristic of America, I incline to the opinion that the obverse marked A. should be selected, if not considered inferior by the Department in other particulars. The coronet or cincture of this obverse is perhaps too large, but may be diminished without injuring the general effect. Of the Reverses that marked B. seems to me preferable. Should this also be the judgment of the Department, it will be necessary, if obverse A. is also selected, to omit the date, and place the wreath lower down. The legend, or lettering could also, with propriety extend more round the border of the coin.

I have the honor to be,
with great respect,
your obt. servt.

James Ross Snowden,
Director.

Hon. Jas. Guthrie
Sec. of Treasury
Washington.

Jas. Ross Snowden
Director of the Mint

Mint of the U. S. Philada. Aug. 4. 1853

Dear Sir

As requested, I have made the accompanying designs, for the Three dollar gold coin, (provided for by the recent act of Congress:) and to be submitted to the Secretary of the Treasury if after inspection, you consider them suitable.

It may not be improper at the same time, to explain my intention, in the peculiar characteristics of the drawings.

The *first Obverse* marked A, is intended to present an ideal female head, with the feathered cincture representing *America*; the word *Liberty* appearing on the fillet or head band: surrounded as usual with the thirteen Stars, as the expressive and adopted emblem of the *United States*.

The *second Obverse* marked B, is simply a new drawing of the Roman head of Liberty, of similar character to that of the other gold coinage in use; varied, only in detail.

The *first Reverse*, marked A, presents the national shield, surrounded by a *wreath* indicating the more prominent agricultural products of the Union – i.e. Corn, Wheat, Cotton & Tobacco: bounded by the inscription and denomination of the coin.

The *second Reverse* marked B, presents a similar wreath and inscription, leaving out the shield, and substituting in the centre, the denomination.

I think it important that the character of the coin should be varied from those already in use, especially from the Quarter Eagle, which it must approximate in size very closely. This consideration appears to me to justify the decided change suggested by my designs for the reverse, in leaving off the eagle. &c

Very Respectfy Your's &c.

Col. J. R. Snowden
Director of the Mint }

James B. Longacre
Engraver of the Mint

Director of the Mint
Philada.
4 Aug 1853

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia 5 Aug. 1853.

Sir,

In a letter from the Department of the 26th ult., you referred to the necessity of the earliest possible commencement of operations at the Branch Mint, San Francisco, after the formal delivery of the structure to the Government, and requested me to provide in time the necessary materials to carry on their business for six months. Pursuant to this request, I have been at some pains to ascertain what materials will be probably necessary for that purpose and at what cost payable here, and I now present to you a list of the same, under the following heads: Apparatus for Refining – Materials for use in refining & melting, say for 6 mos. on ten millions of bullion – materials for coiners use for same time and amount – and also for the assayers department.

Concerning the apparatus estimated for refining, I have to remark that it is assumed that the process used will be that adopted in this Mint, namely by the use of nitric acid. It is probable, however, that the sulphuric acid process, as generally adopted on the continent of Europe will have more advantages to recommend it than any other, principally owing to the circumstance that sulphuric acid may be more economically and safely transported to California than nitric. I expect, in a day or two, to receive a report from eminent manufacturers here as to the feasibility of shipping such acid in lead lined casks, instead of glass carboys, which must be used for nitric acid, and generally are also for sulphuric. Should such casks be available, the Government, if it takes the shipment on itself will not only save freight, but instead of having a large number of expensive, and (in California) useless carboys thrown on its hands, it may probably dispose of the lead and of the casks at a profit on the original cost. Other economies will result in the use of the French process, if the acid can be transported by the proposed plan, since the apparatus required, being iron, and wood vats lined with lead, is cheaply obtained and easily replaced; whereas, among the apparatus necessary for the nitric acid process are porcelain jars, imported from Europe at much delay and considerable cost, and of course not easily replaced if broken. Under the circumstances some further consideration and information are necessary before determining on the purchases necessary for preparing the Mint for refining. - I may add, in this connection, that experiments on the process of Messrs. Booth & Morfit, for refining by solution of gold have been tried, at the request* of the Department, in a letter to my predecessor, but they have not proved satisfactory, the wastage appearing too considerable to justify a recommendation of its use.

The estimate of materials necessary for current use in melting & refining is also based upon the assumption that the present Mint refining process by nitric acid will be employed. If the sulpheric acid is adopted the materials necessary will of course be considerably changed, but the total ~~price~~ cost will not be materially diminished.

The estimates for the Coiner and for the Assayer require no special explanation further than the remark that, inasmuch as the specifications by Mr. Curtis, as agreed on by the Department, appear to contemplate no coinage of silver, no expenses or materials required therefor have been enumerated.

I have not thought proper, although perhaps under the terms of your letter I might safely have done so, to order any of the articles required for the San Francisco Mint, partly because I have only ~~just~~ yesterday been able to complete my information as to what may possibly be necessary, and partly because I wish to learn on what terms, as to time of payment, the purchases are to be made, and how the money is to be disbursed. It is possible that many of the articles might be purchased on a credit, to be paid from an appropriation for the support of the Cal. Branch Mint, to be made by the next congress; and inasmuch as they are mostly more properly payable from such an appropriation than from that for building & machinery and fixtures, and as the unexpended balance of funds in your hands, if employed to provide for the current working expenses of the Mint, might prove deficient for completing the refining department and supplying other omissions, you may perhaps prefer that payments should be postponed wherever practicable.

I again repeat that the prices estimated by me are those payable here. I am unable even to conjecture how far they will be increased by the freight and other expenses to be incurred before the various materials can be adapted to use in the California Mint.

Mr. Curtis being absent, your inquiry relative to silver for refining I am unable, at present, to answer.

I have the honor to be, &c. &c.

Hon. Jas. Guthrie,
Sec. of Treasury
Washington.

James Ross Snowden.
Director.

Apparatus for Refining.

Parting fixtures	$ 300.
Porcelain pots (24 @ $42)	1008.
Pipes, hose, cocks for steam, water &c	150.
Filters for gold, silver, & chloride of silver	350.
Precipitating vat, salt tank, water vats	400.
Platform scale & copper pan	50.
Acid jar for drawing off acid	20.
Reducing vats and filter cloth	300.
Gold syphon	2000
Sundries (Pitchers, buckets, gloves &c)	300.
Hydraulic press, gearing &c	2,500.
Drying furnaces & wrought iron pans	800.
Cars for moving gold & silver &c (4 @ $50)	200.
Total refining apparatus	8578.

Materials for refining & melting.
(say 6 mo's @ $10,000,000.)

Best Belgian zinc, 20 tons @ 6¢ [this may be furnished from the stock of U.S. Mint]	$ 2,688.
Nitric acid, say 200,000 lbs @ 7¢ (1800 carboys)	14,000
Sulphuric acid, 80,000 lbs @ 2	1,600.
Salt for precipitation of silver	600.
Fuel [this supposes the use of anthracite which late experiments show to be feasible]	300
over —	19,188

Brought over	$19,188.
Borax, saltpeter & soda for melting	200.
Black lead pots, & stirrers (400 @ $2)	800.
	20,188

Materials for Coiners Department
6m. @ $10,000,000.

Coal, 200 tons @ $5.—	1,000.
Hickory wood, 50 cords, for annealing	400.
Pine " 10	60
Copper annealing tubes, 36, assorted sizes	400.
Sperm oil, 100 gallons	150.
Lard, 250 lbs	35.
Tallow, 250 lbs	28.
Beeswax, 150 lbs	45.
Mottled soap, 500 lbs	40.
Rags, 600 lbs	60.
Sulphuric acid, for cleaning, 5 carboys	15.
Towlinen mitts, 16 setts	75.
Buckskin, do 4 doz	36.
Brushes, 3 doz	30.
Sawdust, 4 barrels	2.
Alcohol, 10 gallons,	7.
Gum packing, an assortment, for engine &c	50.
Packing yarn & lamp wick	3.
Cotton Laps, for oil caps of engine	2.
Cord for drawbench	2.
carried over	2,440

Brought over	$2,440.
Files for rolling & adjusting room & machine shop	228
Emery paper	10.
assorted cast steel	100.
Iron & Steel for repairs	250.
Stocks, taps & dies	200.
Carbon & charcoal, for hardening & annealing	7.
Two trucks for moving bullion	80.
Bags for coin, 500	50.
Towels for blanks, &c	1.
Scoops & shovels for cleaning room	4.
Oil cans & cups for machinery	25.
Blank books & stationery, for Coiner	15.
Total for coining	3,410

Materials for Assay Department.

6 mo's, for $10,000,000

Pure nitric acid, 1000 lbs @ 9¢	90.
Muriatic acid, 50 lbs @ 4	2.
Cupels, 7000 @ $12.	84.
Lead, for cupellation	5.
Charcoal, 600 bushels @ 16¢	96
Total for assay	$277

Total for the various departments, including Refining Apparatus — — — $32,485.

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia 9 Aug. 1853.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge your communication of the th inst. enclosing for my examination a list of machinery and apparatus for the California Branch Mint. You sk me to state whether those specifications cover all the achinery, tools, and implements required for the various epartments of the Mint there, and if deficient to point ut the articles required.

In reply, I have to state that the specifications appear tolerably complete, for a moderate coinage, except in the efining and silver melting & coining departments, for which no rovisions have been made.

In my letter of the 5th I stated that further time would e necessary before determining on the apparatus & materials necessary to onduct the refining operations, and I still have to claim your ndulgence in that respect. In regard to the estimate of tools &machinery for coinage of silver I should wish, before presenting it, to be informed by the Department what amount of ilver coinage, and ~~of~~ what denominations, may probably be ssumed for the Branch Mint.

If (as will probably be the case) it may be deemed advisable to introduce Sulphuric Acid refining in California, it appears to me important, inasmuch as an entirely new arrangement and character of apparatus will be necessary, of which we have had no trials or experience at the Mint, that a Melter & Refiner should be appointed without delay, on whom should be devolved the labor and responsibility of devising such plans, and ordering such apparatus as will be requisite to the object in view. The officer to be appointed should be a scientific and practical chemist, of good inventive powers, and of course possessed of the other qualities indispensable in a post of such responsibility. Such a one, having before him the descriptions, to be found in books and elsewhere, of the various received processes of refining, together with the plans of the space allotted to that object in the California Mint, could readily devise the necessary apparatus and present written descriptions of the same for the contractor. The labor and responsibility attendant on such an inquiry as I have proposed are very considerable, and the duty, if performed by any one in the Mint, would be ~~ex~~ extra-official. I have, therefore, a delicacy in imposing such an additional labor on any of the officers here, who might be competent, and who are already so fully employed. The plan I have suggested appears to me proper, and more likely (if a fit person be selected) to be satisfactory; and the officer would have an opportunity, which would be of great importance to him, of fully perfecting himself in the various practical details of his department, by daily inspection at this Mint.

In the list of articles forwarded in mine of the 5th, nothing has been included except materials, for the Mint, after it shall be ready for operations. No machinery, tools &c are included, except in the case of the Refining Apparatus.

I have the honor to be
yours Respectfully
James Ross Snowden Director.

Hon. James Guthrie.
Sec. of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia 10 aug. 1853.

Sir,

I regret that it becomes my duty to inform you that in all probability an additional transfer of Gold Coin to our Bullion Fund will be necessary to enable the Treasurer to meet, promptly the deposit of bullion (about two millions) brought by the late arrivals. This is not due to any inactivity or negligence by the operative officers, but to unavoidable circumstances which may be briefly explained to the Department.

Since the late law imposing a charge of half-per cent for coinage, motives of economy have led to a large demand for the payment of deposits in stamped bars. ~~or [illegible]~~ These bars are, of course, nothing but bullion, and consequently, when returned to the Mint, it becomes our duty to receive them as any other bullion, and to pay the value in coin to the depositor, less a deduction of ½ per cent for coinage.

In ordinary circumstances these bars are retained by the owners, and sold for shipment to meet our foreign debt, being more convenient for that purpose than coin itself. But upon a sudden demand for coin the bars are brought to the Mint, to be exchanged as I have mentioned. You are aware that, lately, the commercial difficulties have been somewhat aggravated, and as one effect of that state of things we had returned upon us, within a day or two, near $450,000 in bars. We had also on hand a further amount of about $285,000 in bars, making in all some $735,000 of gold bars. From all the information I can obtain, it appears probable that none of the gold just arrived will be demanded in bars, so that all our material of that kind in the Treasury will, for the present, be practically useless for the payment of deposits.

Our present means, in gold coin, amount to about $888,000 To this will be added, in a few days, and available for the payment of the last arrivals, some $400,000, making in the whole, some $1,288,000. Should the gold received amount to $2,000,000, and be demanded in coin, there will be a deficiency of means of over $700,000

It would be feasible for me to order the melting, & manufacture into large coin, of the bars in the Treasury, as already mentioned, and I doubt not the returns would be available in time for the necessary payments in coin; but as these bars ~~are~~ have been manufactured, calculated & stamped at much expense and labor, I prefer to state our circumstances to you, and asking for a draft in favor of the Treasury of $700,000, which (if you so direct) I could return in a few weeks from the present time, or as soon as our bars shall have been disbursed.

Considering the present very large amount of our bullion fund ($7,293,854.16) you may perhaps be surprised at any circumstances requiring any accession to it. But it must be recollected that much of this fund (some $2,423,000 worth) is in silver purchased for coinage, or used in the refinery, and of course not available for payment of gold deposits. Of the balance in gold, about $2,023,000 is realized in coin and bars, leaving $2,847,854.16 in the hands of the operative officers, in the various processes of refining, melting or coining. This is not an excessive or unusual amount, and considering the heavy demands on the Mint for silver coinage is creditable to the industry of those officers and their operatives.

Should the Department agree to the propriety of ordering the transfer asked for, and draw for the amount on New-york, the same course could be pursued as on a former occasion, that is deposits to that amount could be paid at the Assistant Treasury there, and the necessity of transporting the coin could thus be obviated.

I have the honor to be
with great respect,
your obd't serv't

James Ross Snowden.
Director

Hon. Jas. Guthrie,
Sec. of Treasury,
Washington.

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia 11 Aug. 1853.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 8th inst., asking a statement relative to the purchases and coinage of silver, I present the following.

The cost of the silver purchased at this Mint, for coinage under the new law, from April 1st to Aug. 10, inclusive (partly estimated) was ——— $5,557,000.

The coinage during the same time amounted to $2,550,011

The coinage is paid out to the public almost as fast as it is received so that no available balances remain on hand. This morning there was in the Treasury $151,000. in silver, but the greater part of that amount will be disbursed to day. I consider, however, that the $522,564.16 of silver bullion transferred to the Mint by the Department "is subject to Treasury disposition", less $18,000. already sent to depositaries on your order; but, of course, no drafts on that amount could be paid except by postponing private parties who have sold silver to the Mint.

I take this occasion to mention that I have taken the only step in my power by which materially to increase the silver coinage, by organizing a temporary force in the coining department to work at night, until the present emergency shall be overcome. By this means, unless the rate of our silver receipts shall materially increase, I hope in a few months to have paid off all arrearages due to depositors, including the U.S., and to have accumulated a surplus to meet promptly all subsequent purchases of silver.

I may also mention that, in consequence of a uniform expression of opinion as to the comparative uselessness of the half dollar coinage, at the present time, I have directed that no more than 20 per cent of our issues shall be in that coin. The other denominations will be in the proportion of 70 per cent quarters, and 10 per cent dimes and half-dimes.

I am expecting, daily, a communication from the Superintendent at the New Orleans Branch Mint which will enable me to give information as to the state of silver transactions there. At present, I am without the means of responding to your inquiry as it relates to that Branch.

I have the honor to be,
with great respect,
your obdt. servt.

James Ross Snowden
Director

Hon. Jas. Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasy
Washington.

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia 11 Aug 1853

Sir,

In reply to your communication of yesterday, I have to state that the Mint has not refused to receive its ingots when returned to it for coinage. You will, on the contrary, have learned from my letter of yesterday that they have been returned to us to a large amount, within a few days past, and that the unexpected disbursement of coin, thus made necessary, has caused very great inconvenience.

I see it stated in [illegible] several of the New York papers that the Mint is paying coin for ingots, and as the fact is by this means, no doubt, already sufficiently known to the commercial community, it appears unnecessary to take any further steps to correct the misapprehension which you state to have existed on the subject.

I have the honor to be,
with great respect,
your obdt servt

James Ross Snowden
Director

Hon. Jas. Guthrie
Sec. of Treasury
Washington.

Mint of the United States
Philada 15 Aug. 1853

Dear Sir,

I received your favor of the 12th with the enclosed slip relative to our silver coin. I quite agree with the writer that the silver coin should be improved in appearance, and you know that I have already taken the necessary steps to that end; but he has committed an injustice in charging the defect of device on the "new issue", since that issue is in no material degree different in device from the old. It would seem, from the writers reference to the roughness on the halves & quarters that he has mistaken for bad workmanship the roughness produced by the rays around the eagle, introduced for distinguishing the new issue from the old.

I am very truly yours
James Roſs Snowden
Director

P. G. Washington Esq.

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Aug. 15. 1853.

Sir,

I am as yet unprepared to suggest the name of a suitable person for the Office of Melter and Refiner of the Branch Mint in California. Mr. Booth our Melter and Refiner is absent. I would be glad to have an opportunity of conferring with him on the subject. He will be at home in a few days.

I have the honor to be
with great Respect
Your obt. servant,

James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City.

Mint of the United States
Philada. 17 Aug. 1853.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge your letter & telegraph of yesterday, y which you authorise the Assistant Treasurer, here, to receive, om the Mint, bars in exchange for coin to meet a temporary deficiency of means for the payment of ~~means~~ deposits. Having already, in my letter of the 10th inst., asked of the Department all the ssistance which I supposed would be necessary to meet the demands pon the Mint in consequence of the last arrivals from California, t is proper that I should now explain what were the circumstances which demanded another call upon your indulgence. Those rcumstances were briefly these. First, unexpected deposits of lver were received, amounting) to over $400,000. and payable n gold. Second, the coinage which I had hoped would prove vailable for payments has ~~not~~ only in part been forthcoming. Lastly, the gold deposits payable exceeded the sum of 2 millions hich I had assumed as the basis of my estimate of means required. This combination of circumstances reduced our stock f coin to a sum quite inadequate to the payments ~~now~~ necessary or to day, but your permission to exchange our bars has relieved s of all difficulty.

The uncertainty in which we are placed, from the impossibility of anticipating how much of an expected arrival of gold may be demanded in bars and how much in coin is a constant source of annoyance. Until the last arrival the Treasury was generally deficient in its supply of bars, the preferences depositors being generally for that mode of payment. But n the last arrival the course of things had entirely changed.

nothing was demanded but coin, and our bars proved entirely useless, and what aggravated the difficulty those which had lready been issued were, without warning, returned upon us for coin. I cannot suppose that this disinclination for bars will be permanent, or that their return upon our hands will be continued. If so, I should deem it my duty to cause them to be manufactured forthwith into coin. But as it is possible that upon the next arrival the former demand for bars will be resumed, I deem it necessary to keep on hand a stock of near a million to meet the possible exigency thus created. ~~But~~ If, however, the payments are demanded in coin, you perceive that just so far as our means are in ~~coin~~ bars they are practically useless.

I have made this explanation at some length that you may appreciate the reasons for the request I now make, which is that the Assistant Treasurer may, if you do not see any objection, receive a general authority from you to exchange our bars for coin at any time when the exigencies of the Mint may render it expedient, without the necessity of a special application to you. We should thus be relieved of the uneasiness now felt in case our accumulation of bars should at any time exceed the demand for them, as we can render them available by this method, for procuring coin. Of course, as coin accumulated in the Mint Treasury the bars could be returned upon us again, as any exigency in the Assistant Treasury might require.

I have the honor to be
with great respect,
Your obdt. Servt.
James Ross Snowden
Director

Hon. Jas. Guthrie
Sec. of Treasury
Washington.

Confidential.

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Aug. 17, 1853.

My dear Sir;

In reply to your confidential letter of the 15th inst I have the honor to state, that Dr. Sturgeon Treas. of the Mint boards at a private house near the Mint. His son is not married, he boards at the Merchants Hotel in this city. I infer from your letter that you suppose the young man is employed in the Office of the Assistant Treasurer; this is not so; he is employed as a clerk in the Mint. I enclose a memorandum prepared by him for a depositor. It was handed to me a few minutes ago.

I am, faithfully
and truly yours,
James Ross Snowden.

Hon. James Guthrie
Washington City.

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Aug. 17, 1853.

Sir,

I send you a few copies of the laws relating to the Mint. I have directed the publication of this pamphlet not only because the last edition, which was printed in 1846, is exhausted, but because since that time many new laws on the subject have been paſsed and alterations made in previous enactments.

I have the honor to be,
with great regard,
Your obt. servant,

James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie.
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City.

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Aug. 18. 1853.

Sir,

Some weeks ago I called the attention of Dr Sturgeon, Treasurer of the Mint, to the necessity of his son giving bond for the faithful discharge of his duty. Yesterday the enclosed bond was handed to me and the surety being sufficient I have approved it and now transmit it to you for your sanction.

I have the honor to be
with great respect,
Your Ob. Servt,
James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie.
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City.

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia 18 Aug. 1853.

Sir,

In my communication of the 8th inst. I adverted to to the probability that the introduction of the process of refining by sulphuric acid instead of nitric might be rendered advisable, by reason ~~&~~ of the feasibility & cheapness of shipping such acid in lead lined casks, in place of glass carboys, and I stated that information would be sought to enable me to determine this point.

Since that time I have caused a cask to be prepared suitable to the transportation of sulphuric acid, and I have obtained information as to freights, and risk of losses, and am now able to say that, in my judgment, a considerable economy will be realized by shipping acid in the method proposed. I present for your consideration the following data for an estimate on this subject.

The cost of shipping a carboy of sulphuric acid, to California, leaving out insurance & risk of loss, would probably be as follows:

Cost of the acid, say 155 lbs, at 2 cts	$ 3.10
do carboy (which is worthless in Cala.)	1.50
do freight, from $5. to $7. - say	6.00
Total cost, say six cents 8/10 per lb. of acid	$ 10.60

The cost of shipping acid in the lead lined cask will be will be as follows:

Cost of the acid, say 260 lbs. @ 2 cts		$5.20
do barrel		9.50
Freight		3.50
		18.20
Deduct value of the barrel in California, viz. 75 lbs. lead @ 6d	$4.50	
½ barrel	1.50	6.00
Total cost, say 4 6/10 cents per lb. of acid		$12.20

It is also to be considered that the risk by breakage and dangers of the sea is very great, for acid in Carboys. If the Government should insure, it will be charged 10 per cent therefor, and if it does not insure the loss will probably amount to nearly as much. With the barrels there appears no risk beyond that incident to any other shipment. If the element of saving due to the avoidance of losses be taken into the estimate, I suppose that the gain by transporting in lead instead of glass will be one third.

It will not be proper, however, in the absence of other information of which I am now in search, ~~to~~ in reference to the best method of refining adapted to California, to order at the present time the acid which may be necessary there. Allow me to suggest, however, that the articles for coining, assaying & ~~refining~~ melting detailed in a schedule already presented by me, might be advantageously ordered at once.

I have the honor to be
with great respect, your obd. servt.
Jame. Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington.

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Aug. 19. 1853.

Sir,

I have had a conference with Mr. Booth our Melter and Refiner in relation to a suitable person for that office in California. He suggests the name of John Huston jr. of this city, a gentleman who has attained some reputation as a practical and scientific Chemist. At present he is employed in Mr. Booth's private Laboratory. I think it proper to suggest the name of Dr. Jonas R. McClintock of Pittsburgh Pa. Dr. McC. was formerly Melter & Refiner of this Mint and resigned in 1846. He is a gentleman of high character and integrity, but I am unable to speak of his practical and scientific attainments as a Chemist. ~~I am unable~~ or to say whether he would desire an appointment in California. Professor Bache of the Coast Survey is acquainted with Mr. Huston. Perhaps it would be well to have a word with him on the subject.

I have the honor to be
with great respect,
Your obt servt
James Ross Snowden
Director

Hon. James Guthrie.
Sec. of the Treasy

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia 23 Aug 1853

I have to acknowledge your letter of the 21st, in which you
prove of certain suggestions as to purchases for the California
nt, as proposed in my communication of the 18th. I regret to
d a discrepancy, however, in your subsequent detailed in-
ctions as to contracts, and my own suggestions as approved
you, and to obviate all uncertainty I address you again on
subject.

I respectfully suggest, then, that I may be authorised to
der and purchase, for the California Mint, the articles in-
ded in the schedule herein enclosed, being such as will
necessary for the working of that Mint in its *coining*, as-
ying, and *melting* of gold. And inasmuch as these articles
e more properly a charge upon an appropriation for the ordi-
ry expenses of the Mint than one for its erection and fitting
, I propose, as far as is possible, to arrange with the par-
s furnishing such articles, to await their payment until
gress shall provide therefor in a deficiency or other appropri-
n Bill for the current expenses of the California Mint.

With regard to the apparatus and materials for *refining*
separating, ~~and~~ I suggest that, when the most feasible
n for refining shall finally be determined on, I shall be
powered to contract, subject to your approval, for the necess-
apparatus and the fitting up of the same in California;
d also for such machinery as may be necessary for a

all silver coinage. The payment for this apparatus & machinery should be made from the appropriation the establishment of the Mint, conformably to the ex-ss requirement of the law. The *materials* for subse-nt working operations in refining (including acids) and for silver coin-, I will, also, give orders for, payable out of the future propriation for the current support of the Branch Mint.

I think it would be expedient, if you see no objection, that Curtis should, if he will contract on reasonable terms, mployed to ~~to~~ fit up & procure the necessary apparatus refining. Permit me also to suggest that, if the sulphu- acid process is adopted, inasmuch as it is highly impor-t that the preparation of the plans and details should devolved on some one possessed of the requisite information d discretion, I should be authorised to employ and reas-ably compensate some fit person for that object. If a elter & Refiner for Cal.a were appointed, he might, as a part his official duty, attend to the matter; otherwise, I should sh authority to devolve it upon some other, perhaps the elter & Refiner of the Mint if he can find time to attend it.

It will not be possible, I think, to forward any acids y the Revenue Cutters as you propose; but the other arti-les may conveniently be sent by them. I will thank you to rnish me with such authority and directions as will enable make use of those vessels for the purpose.

I have the honor to be, &c.

James Ross Snowden.
Director.

James Guthrie
, Treas.y, Washington

Materials for Coiner's Department.

6 ms @ $10,000,000.

Coal, 200 Tons @ $5	$1000.
Hickory Wood, 50 Cords for annealing	400
Pine do 10 .	60
Copper annealing tubes, 36, assorted sizes	400
Sperm Oil, 100 Gallons	150.
Lard, 250 lbs.	35
Tallow 250 lbs.	28
Beeswax 150 lbs.	45
Mottled soap 500 lbs.	40.
Rags 600 lbs.	60.
Sulphuric acid for cleaning - 5 Carboys.	15
Tow linen mitts 16 setts	75
Buckskin do 4 doz.	36
Brushes 3 doz.	30.
Saw dust 4 barrels.	2.
Alcohol 10 gallons.	7
Gum packing, an assortment, for engines &c.	50.
Packing yarn and lamp wick	3
Cotton Laps, for oil caps of engine	2
Cord for draw bench.	2
Files, for rolling and adjusting room and Machine shop	228.
Emery paper.	10.
Assorted Cast steel	100.
Iron and Steel, for repairs.	250.
Carried over.	$3028.

Brought over.	$3028.
Stocks, taps and dies.	200.
Carbon and Charcoal for hardening and annealing	7
Two trucks for moving bullion	80.
Bags for coin 500,	50.
Towels for blanks &c.	1.
Scoops and shovels for cleaning room.	4.
Oil cans and cups for machinery	25.
Blank Books and Stationery for Coiner	15
Total for Coining.	$3410.

Materials for Assay Department.

6 mos for $10,000,000.

Pure Nitric Acid 1000 lbs @ 9¢.	90.
Muriatic acid 50 lbs @ 4¢.	2
Cupels 7000 @ $12.	84
Lead for cupellation.	5
Charcoal 600 bushels @ 16¢	96.
Total for assay.	$277.

Materials for Melting.

Fuel, (This supposes the use of anthracite, which late experiments show to be feasible)	$300.
Borax, Saltpetre and Soda.	200.
Black lead pots and stirrers (400 @ $2.	800
Total for melting	$1300.

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia 23 Aug 1853

Sir,

I have to acknowledge your letter of yesterday, stating our desire to transfer $300,000 to Washington from the Mint in certain proportions of coin named. In reply I have to state that we can meet your requisition in very particular except in regard to gold dollars, of which, t present, only $10,000 can be furnished. I suggest hat the deficiency on that account be added to the amunt of half eagles, so that the proportions to be furnished hall be as follows:

$125,000	in	Double Eagles
50,000		Eagles
65,000		Half Eagles
10,000		Dollars
15,000		Half dollars
25,000		Quarter dolls
5,000		Dimes
5,000		Half dimes
$300,000		

I have the honor to be
with great respect
your obdt servt
Jame Ross Snowden
Director

Hon. Jas. Guthrie
Sec. of Treasury,
Washington.

(over)

I may add that, if you see no objection, it would be more convenient that your draft should be on the Assistant Treasurer, instead upon the Mint. In that case the necessary exchange could be made with the Mint, for the coins to be remitted, while our bullion fund for the payment of deposits would remain untouched.

Yours
J. R. S.

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia 26 Aug. 1853.

Sir,

In reply to your communication of yesterday, I have to state that $10,000 in silver coin can be spared, for St Louis, from this Mint, and also, I have no doubt, from the New Orleans Mint. I repeat, what I have remarked in former letters, that so far as Government drafts for silver are honored at the Mint, the claims of the sellers of silver to us are in proportion postponed; I trust, therefore, that the Department will withhold such drafts except when indispensably demanded by a public exigency.

I have the honor to be
with great respect
your obt. servt.

James Ross Snowden.
Director

Hon. Jas. Guthrie
Secy of the Treasy
Washington.

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Mint of the United States
Philada. 27 Aug. 1853

Sir,

I am surprised to learn, from your letter of yesterday, hat complaints are made of an insufficient supply of mall gold in Baltimore. I can only say that the cause has not been with the Mint. A large surplus of small gold is generally kept on hand, which is payable to any depositors who choose to ask for it; but, in consequence of their almost uniformly demanding the larger coin the smaller pieces became almost useless to us, and lately, in consequence of the eneral pressure upon the Mint, the ~~coinage~~ reserve of small gold has been reduced to a ~~small~~ trifling amount. In fact, the supply of gold dollars is exhausted. Quarter eagles can be furnished if demanded. I would suggest, however, that in place of a transfer draft, as proposed by you, it would be more convenient if the Baltimore Banks would request their depositors or correspondents who have Mint Receipts to demand payment for them in small gold, instead of large coin. By this plan they will accommodate themselves in the ordinary routine of our business without putting you to inconvenience.

I have the honor to be,
with great respect, yr. obt. servt.
James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. Jas. Guthrie
ec. of the Treasy
ashington.

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Aug. 27. 1853.

Sir,

The business in the Treasurer's office requires the employment of an additional clerk. For some time past there has been a delay of several months in the preparation of the quarterly accounts of the transactions of the Mint. And since the resignation of Mr. Robert Dunning no one is engaged upon that duty the time of the clerks being taken up with the current business of the Office. In fact, in view of the increase of business arising from the large transactions in silver and in gold it may become necessary to ask a further increase of clerks in order that the business of the Mint may be disposed of with proper despatch. I think it probable however that an additional clerk to our present force may be sufficient. I have to request that you will procure from the President his approbation to the employment of an additional Clerk for the Treasurer's Office.

I beg to call your attention to my letter of the 12th inst in relation to the power of appointing clerks.

I have the honor to be,
with great, your obt Servt.
James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Aug. 30. 1853.

Sir,

I have your favors of the 27th 28th and 29th inst in reference to making medals at the Mint for Meſsrs Adams & Co for exhibition at the Worlds Fair at New York, and for the Maſsachusetts Mechanic Aſsociation.

It is proper that I should call your attention to the fact that the making of medals in the Mint has heretofore occasioned unpleasant remarks. It has been objected to, because the material and machinery of the government have been used for private purposes and made a source of profit to some of the persons employed in the Coining department. I have myself very great doubts whether it is legal or proper to make medals except such as may be ordered by the government. If they are made for other purposes I am of opinion that no charge should be made except for the intrinsic value of the metals used. Heretofore considerable profits have been made by the persons who have executed the medals. It seems doubtful also whether the government ought to interfere with private enterprise by manufacturing free of charge or otherwise any work of a private character.

I may further remark that in order to meet the public demands for Gold and Silver Coin I am running the coining department twenty hours a day, and it would be inconvenient at this time to make these medals. If however it is your wish, after considering the objections I have presented, that they should be made I will make every possible effort to comply with your request.

I have the honor to be
with great respect
Your obt. servant,
James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia 31 Aug 1853

Sir,

I herewith enclose, with my approval, the bonds of Messrs. J. D. Gillmore, Oscar Isnard, & M. G. Kennedy, appointed Clerks to the Treasurer of the Branch Mint, New Orleans.

The Treasurer, in forwarding these bonds, states that he submits to my approval and that "of the Hon. Secty of the Treasy the following nominations ×× to take effect from and after the 7th of July last when they entered upon the duties of their offices". I presume, however, that these names were already presented to & approved by you before the gentlemen assumed their functions. If otherwise, I presume the Treasurers letter to me may be considered as a nomination, under the law, and, if requested, I will forward it to the Department.

I have the honor to be
with great respect y'r. ob. serv.
Jame Ross Snowden
Director

Hon. Jas Guthrie
Secy of the Treasy

Augt 23d 1853
Branch Mint U. States
New Orleans

James R Snowden
Director U. S. Mint Phila.

Sir

I have the honour to submit for your approval and of the Hon Secty of the Treasury of the U. States, the following nominations, to the several Clerkships in my Office to wit; James J Gillmore to be chief Clerk. Oscar Isnard Ast Clerk and Martin Kennedy weigher; their appointments to take effect from & after the 7th July last, when they entered upon the duties of these Offices—

These Gentlemen are recommended as possessing my entire confidence and every qualification necessary in the performance of the duties, which may by virtue of their appointments devolve upon them—

I transmit herewith their bonds and oaths of Office which I trust will prove satisfactory, & which you will please forward to Washington for the examination of the Secty of the Treasury—

Very respectfully

James Brewer
Tr Br Mt N. Orleans

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia 2 Sept. 1853.

Sir,

In accordance with your letter of the 24th. ulto. I have to state that orders for the purchase of the greater part of the materials required for the California Branch Mint, including 60 barrels or near 16000 lbs of Sulphuric acid, have been issued by me, and that no difficulty has been experienced in reference to the postponement of payment until the future appropriation of Congress. I have been disappointed, however, not to have heard from the Captains of the Revenue Cutters, and must beg you to furnish me with their names and addresses, that I may make arrangements relative to the shipment. It would be, on many grounds, convenient that the cutters should come round to Philada., and if that arrangement can be made I will thank you to inform me.

Mr. Curtis, who has been absent from the city, has been this morning at the Mint, and I have had a full conversation with him relative to the additions to his contract requisite to meet the wants at the California Mint, for refining and for silver coinage. It is believed that the necessary preparations for silver, including an additional press, will require about $5000. As to the refining apparatus I was able to furnish him but scanty information on which to base a contract; but he has agreed, as you will see by the copy of his letter enclosed, to furnish whatever may be necessary for both silver coinage and refining, for $16,000.

In order that due arrangements, specifications and descriptions, for the proposed sulphuric acid refinery may be satisfactorily prepared, I must again urge the propriety and importance of appointing a Melter & Refiner for the California Mint. You can well understand that every officer of the Mint, competent to the elaboration of such plans, is already engrossed by his special duties. The subject is, to a great extent, a new one. There is nowhere in this country a sulphuric acid refinery which can be copied as a model, and the only sources of information are the printed or manuscript descriptions of refineries in operation on the continent of Europe. To adapt & prepare the proper apparatus from such descriptions requires scientific & practical knowledge, and ingenuity, and also the time for a due attention to the subject.

I am well satisfied that Mr. John Huston, jr., whom I have before named to the Department, would, if promptly appointed Melter & Refiner, give entire satisfaction, not only in preparing plans &c. for the Refinery but in his conduct & efficiency in carrying on the operations of his office in the Branch Mint itself, and in view of all the circumstances, I respectfully ~~urge~~ recommend him to your consideration.

I may add, that Capt. Bowman has been yesterday and to day at the Mint making examinations with a view to the Assay Office at New York. Every facility for information will be cheerfully accorded to him.

I have the honor to be &c.

James Ross Snowden
Director

Hon. Jas. Guthrie
Sec. of Treasury
Washington.

Phila 2nd Sept 1853.

Col. J. Ross Snowden
Director U. S. Mint
Phila

Dear Sir

I will undertake and agree to construct all the machinery required (according to specifications to be furnished by you) for the California Branch Mint to enable that institution to coin silver, as well as gold. Also to put up in complete working order all the necessary apparatus in the separating Dept. for the separating and refining of the gold & silver, upon the process known as the sulphuric acid, or French process. for the sum of $16.000.

I have the honor to remain
Yours respectfully
Jos. C. Curtis

Mint of the United States
Philada 2 Sept 1853

Sir,

I have to acknowledge your letter of yesterday, and having learned by it that the Clerks for the New Orleans Mint had not been nominated to you by the Treasr, I herewith enclose his letter to myself, which I trust will answer the purpose of an official nomination.

You request, in order that the accumulation of silver at the New Orleans Mint should be avoided, that I shall direct the discontinuance of transfer drafts in exchange therefor. Permit me to suggest that such a course would still leave the Treasr under instructions to purchase silver with gold coin, according to ~~his~~ the published offer to the public, and that the offers to him for sale would still be continued. I presume, too, that if his gold funds for that purchase should be exhausted he would expect, or at least the public would expect, that they should be replenished by the Department. Under the circumstances it occurs to me that if the entire suspension of purchases is desirable that notice should be given to that effect, rather than confine the notice to purchases payable in Treasury Drafts. I shall postpone writing to the Superintendent till I hear your views on this subject.

Hon. Jas. Guthrie
Secy of the Treasy
Washington.

I have the honor to be
with great respect, yr. ob. Servt
James Ross Snowden,
Director.

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Sept. 3. 1853.

Sir,

I have to request your attention to my letter of the 27th ulto. in reference to the employment of an additional clerk in the Treasurer's office. I bring the subject now to your notice at the suggestion of Dr. Sturgeon who informs me that he had some conversation with you respecting it.

I have the honor to be
with great respect,
Your Obt. servant,

James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie,
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City.

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia 5 Sept. 1853

Sir,

I have to acknowledge your letter of the 2d, and to so much thereof as relates to the question of a more frequent settlement of accounts with the Melter & Refiner and Chief Coiner, I have to make the following reply.

In the Melter & Refiner's Department, the rendering up of the bullion in his hands, preparatory to a settlement, involves an entire suspension of his operations on newly received bullion, for some weeks, and to that extent the means of the Mint for payment of deposits are diminished. Of late years it has, consequently, been with the greatest difficulty that opportunity has been found for such settlements as the law requires; and it would be quite impossible, however desirable, to # make these settlements quarterly without such assistance from the Treasury as would enable us to pay all arrearages which might accumulate through our suspension.

In the Chief Coiner's Department the difficulties would be much less, and although it would be inconvenient to require him to deliver up, more frequently than at present, the bullion in his hands, yet I suppose his operations would not be delayed more than a few days in consequence.

With regard to the present frequency of these settlements, I have to state that, in the coiner's department they have been, for many years past, made on the 31st December in each year. In the Melter & Refiner's department they were formerly, and until the ~~Jan~~ 31st December 1850, made annually on the same date. Since then the following settlements have been made, viz. June 30, 1851, d° 1852, Feb. 11, 1853. I may add, that a settlement is always made on the incoming of a new coiner or melter.

I have the honor to be
with great respect
your obt. servt.

James Ross Snowden.
Director

Hon. James Guthrie
Secy of Treasury
Washington.

Private,

Philada. Sept. 6. 1853.

Dear Sir,

The gentlemen, Messrs Lungren and Costello who are nominated for Clerks in the Mint I believe to be in all respects worthy and competent. They are also democrats and of course friends of the administration. Mr. Edelman's place will be difficult to fill, and I was anxious to retain him, but he wished his salary to be raised to $2,000 per annum. This could not be done under existing laws. Mr. Lungren who will take his desk is an excellent mathematician and very familiar with accounts. I have reason to believe that after a little experience in our somewhat complicated and peculiar system, he will be able to do his work as promptly and satisfactorily as his predecessor. Mr. Costello is a good clerk. I will put him on the accounts in connexion with other duties and hope to avoid the delay which for years past has taken place in the presentation of the quarterly accounts. I expect to be able to have them presented in 25 or 30 days after the end of the quarter.

I fear you misunderstood me in reference to the Medal business. I know there can be no profit to Messrs Adams & Co. nor to the Boston Association and I was also aware that these medals were for benefit and public purposes, but the objection is inside of the Mint. The chief Coiner makes them a source of profit. Mr. McCulloh former Melter & Refiner attacked that officer and indeed the former Director and all concerned in the business. Did you ever see his pamphlets?

It is difficult to say what are the proper charges. These matters not being Mint transactions have always been managed entirely by the Chief Coiner.

It seems proper enough that these Medals and others of similar character should be made, but there are many persons in and out of the Mint who object to Mint officers and employees of the government using the material and machinery of the government for their private benefit. It was this that I had reference to not ~~to~~ that any profits would accrue either to Messrs. Adams & Co. or the Boston Institute.

I thought it best to make this private explanation to you. Mr. Roats and his foreman called on me to day on the subject of making the medals and I informed them that it had your sanction and that they are authorised to make them. I write this in haste. and am faithfully and truly yours,

James Ross Snowden

Hon. J. Guthrie
Washington City.

Mint of the United States
Philada Sept 6th 1853

Sir

I have your favor of the 2d Inst giving assent to the employment of an additional Clerk in the Treasurer's Office, I enclose the nomination by the Treasurer of Joseph C. Costello as such additional Clerk, I also enclose the nomination of John L. Lungren as Clerk in the Treasurer's office in the place of Geo. W. Edelman who has tendered his resignation to take effect on the 15th Inst.

Messrs Costello and Lungren are known to me as gentleman of integrity and are well qualified for the discharge of the duties which will be assigned them. Their nomination by the Treasurer meets with my entire approbation and I unite with that officer in asking your approval of their appointments. I propose to fix their Compensation at

$ 1200. per annum each

I have the honor to be
with great respect
Your obt. Servt.

Director

Hon James Guthrie
Sec of the Treasury
Washington City.

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia 6 Sept 1853

Sir,

I nominate Joseph C. Costello as the additional Clerk authorised in your letter of the 2d instant, to the Director of the Mint. I also nominate John S. Lungren as a clerk in my office, in the place of Geo. W. Edelman resigned, this last appointment to take effect on the 15th inst.

Messrs. Costello & Lungren were born in, and are residents of this city. They are well recommended to me as possessing proper qualifications for Clerks in the Mint, and the Director unites with me in asking your approval of these appointments.

I have the honor to be
very respectfully
your obd. Servt.

Hon. James Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington.

Danl. Sturgeon
Treasurer

94a

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Sept. 7. 1853.

Sir,

Immediately on the receipt of your letter of the 5th inst I offered the employment which you authorised me to offer to Mr. John Hewston jr. This morning he informed me that he accepts the employment at a compensation of six dollars per day and his actual expenses in travelling to California.

As the French process has never been carried out in this Country it is important that we should gain some experience in executing it in order to contrive the best form of apparatus for the California Mint. We have descriptions of the process and apparatus and also drawings of them as conducted in Europe in 1835 prepared by Mr. Peale for the government at that time. Since then the apparatus has been modified by the substitution of Cast iron for platinum. Mr. Booth our Melter and Refiner has also modified a part of the process so as to adapt it the better to our mints and especially that of California. For these reasons it is desirable that Mr. Hewston should make a few experiments upon ordering the Refining apparatus. No time escaped

Daniel Sturgeon
Treasr. U.S. Mint
Philadelphia

Washington, D.C.

for this purpose and for preparing the apparatus for shipment will probably be a month or six weeks. I have given Mr. Newton specific instructions on this subject and requested him to report to me at the earliest moment and present also specifications of the apparatus required. He enters upon his duties to day.

I enclose a specification of the machinery utensils &c required for the Coinage of Silver at the Branch Mint in California. When the specification for separating and refining is furnished to me I will transmit it to you, and then you will able to determine whether it is proper to accept the proposal of Mr. Curtis, which I sent you.

I have received no report from the Officers of the Revenue Cutters.

I have the honor to be
with great respect,
your obt. servt.
James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington ~~City~~

Filed
Ordered of the Mint

Washington, D.C.

Chief Coiner's Office
August 7th. 1853.

To enable the Branch Mint in California to coin Silver it is estimated, that it will be requisite to provide Machinery in addition to that embraced in the present contract, as follows.

Four sets of Moulds for ½ Dolls. & ½ Dimes, Dimes, Quarter Dollars & Three cent pieces @ $96. per set of twelve	$384. "
Five sets of Beds and Punches	50. "
Two draw plates @ 90.	180. "
One Milling Machine with addition tubes and dies	900. "
One Press of the medium size	4,700. "
Four sets of Tubes, Feeders & Stakes	650. "
One Iron pan for annealing Blanks	20. "
	$6,880. "

These are Philad^a. prices

(Signed) Franklin Peale.
C.C.

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Sept: 10, 1853.

Sir:

I have to acknowledge your favor of the 8th. inst. Mr. Hewston is actively at work and will report to me next week.

I will write to you on Monday in reply to that portion of your letter which relates to the employment of an Assayer and Coiner for the Branch Mint at California. I have not had an opportunity of conferring with the Officers of the Mint on the subject.

Mr. Curtis is at New York. I write to him to-day to request his coming to this City with a view to an agreement to provide for the machinery and apparatus for Silver Coinage and for the Refinery at the Branch Mint.

I instructed the Engraver some weeks ago to prepare the dies. They will be made in time. The coins struck at this Mint have no particular mark on them; those struck at the Branch Mints are designated by a letter as follows = New Orleans, O. Dahlonega, D. Charlotte, C. I have instructed the Engraver to put the letter S. for the Branch Mint at San Francisco.

The officers of the Revenue Cutters have not yet reported to me.

I have the honor to be,
With great Respect, Yr. Ob. Servt.
James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon: James Guthrie,
Sec.y of the Treasury,
Washington, D.C.

Mint of the United States.
Phil^a. Sept. 10. 1853

Sir,

I enclose the bonds of Messrs. Lungren and Costello for the faithful discharge of their duties as Clerks in the Mint. Mr Costello enters upon his duties to day. Mr. Lungren on the 15th inst at which time the resignation of Geo. W. Edelman takes effect.

I have the honor to be
with great respect
Your obt. servant

James Ross Snowden,
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City.

Director of the Mint
Sep. 10/53.

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Sept. 13. 1853.

Ho. James Guthrie.
Sec. of the Treasury.

Sir,

I have to day received the reports of the Captains of the Revenue Cutters. Capt. Moore, says "when the vessel is fully provisioned and fitted with all necessary articles for the voyage, it will be impossible to stow any thing more in her." Capt Cornell, says his "vessel is small requiring all the room for the officers and crew upon so long a voyage. I am sorry to say it would be impossible to carry any articles of bulk. What articles are shipped by this vessel must be in small packages and not exceed one ton." In a P.S. added by Wm. C. Pease 1st Lt. Superintending outfits, he says "I would remark that what articles are received on board the Cutter must necessarily be stowed under the berth deck and would be liable to dampness and rust". These reports render it necessary to look elsewhere for transportation. I have ascertained that "The Morning Light" a Clipper ship and an excellent sailer will leave this Port for San Francisco in a week from to day. The Captain will be at the Mint tomorrow at my request and I will ascertain his terms of carrying freight. We have 30 Kegs of Sulphuric acid ready for shipping; the materiel for the coining department will all be ready this week. I think these should be forwarded at once without waiting for the report of Mr. Hewston on the French or Sulphuric acid process. Enough is now known to determine the propriety of that system. A report as to the apparatus necessary will be made in a few days and as soon as I can be able either to communicate with or see Mr. Curtis the arrangement can be made for supplying the Branch Mint with that apparatus and for the silver coinage. As at present advised I think your offer of $14,000 is quite enough, perhaps too much. I will see if it cannot be made for less if possible.

It may be a proper precaution to insure the freight we may send; if you think so I will have it done. As it is important that these articles should reach San Francisco in proper time I suppose I had better not chaffer as to the freight but make the arrangement without delay.

I have not heard from Mr. Curtis but I learn to day that he will be in town this week.

I find it difficult to suggest the proper persons for Assayer and Coiner of the California Mint, but expect to be able to write to you tomorrow. I have the honor to be

James Ross Snowden Director

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Sept. 13. 1853.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge your letter of the 11th inst. Before presenting a statement of the apparatus and articles for the New York Assay office I would be pleased to be informed of your estimate of the probable amount of business which will be done at that office. The business at this Mint during the present year will approximate sixty millions of dollars. The building at New York is calculated for melting and refining 100 millions per annum.

It will give me great pleasure to afford to Drs. Torrey and Cobb every facility by which they may be enabled to discharge the duties which have been assigned them.

I have the honor to be
with great respect,
Your Obt. Servant,
James Ross Snowden,
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie.
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Sept. 15, 1853.

Sir,

I have given due consideration to your letter of the 8th inst relative to the suggestion of proper persons to act as Assayer and Coiner of the Branch Mint at San Francisco. For Assayer I respectfully suggest the name of Mr. Andrew Mason. Mr. Mason has been engaged in the Assay office and laboratory of the Mint for several years past and being accurate, careful and industrious he possesses my entire confidence and that of the officers engaged in that Department of the Mint. He is a gentleman of good natural abilities and excellent moral character, a native of this City and a Graduate of the High School.

For Coiner I present the name of Mr. Henry I. Taylor. He is also a Philadelphian by birth and after graduating at the High School received a thorough education as an Engineer and Machinist. He has had no experience as a Mint officer, but as he possesses excellent natural talents and is theoretically and practically acquainted with Mechanics and Machinery with the instruction he could receive here I have no doubt he will be able to qualify himself for the discharge of the duties which may be assigned him. Mr. Taylor is now employed at Wilmington in the State of Delaware as draughtsman in the establishment of Messrs Harlan and Hollingsworth builders of Steam boats and Manufacturers of Machinery. I have had an interview with him and he informs me he will accept the appointment if it is conferred upon him.

I have the honor to be
with great respect,
Your Obt. Servant,
James Ross Snowden
Director

Hon. James Guthrie.
Sec. of the Treasury.
Washington City.

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Sept. 15. 1853

Sir,

I have received your letter of yesterday. I have made an arrangement to send to San Francisco by the "Morning Light" clipper, as many articles as we can get ready; when they are shipped I will send you a copy of the bill of lading. I will also have an insurance on them as requested.

Mr. Carter writes to me that he will be here on Saturday, when I will make the best agreement that I can, with him for the Refinery and the Silver Coinage.

I have the honor to be
with great respect
your Obt. Servt.
James Ross Snowden,
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie.
Sec. of the Treasury.
Washington City.

Mint of the United States.
Philad^a. Sept. 19. 1853.

Sir

In reply to that portion of your letter of the 16th inst, which relates to silver Coinage I have to state that the furnishing of a weekly statement as requested will command my early attention. In my former letter I stated the efforts I am making to increase the silver Coinage at this mint. I am happy to state that the present results and future prospects in this particular are satisfactory. The Coinage this month at this Mint in silver will approximate $1,300,000. Hitherto $700,000 was a large coinage. In a few weeks we will be through with our agreement to pay the sellers of silver in silver coin and we will then be able to make exchanges of silver for gold coins. The government, on the 16th of April last purchased $500,000 in silver. I propose that that amount constitute a fund for the disposal of the government. We have

on hand applicable to that object the following sums. $250,000 in Quarter dollars
30.000 in half dollars
5,000 in dimes
3,000 in half dimes
$288,000

These amounts we can send to such offices as you may designate.

I will write to the Superintendant of the Branch Mint at New Orleans and instruct him to use all possible means to increase his silver coinage.

Your remarks in regard to small gold coins will command my attention.

I have the honor to be
with great regard,
Your obt. servant,
James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie,
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City.

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Sept. 19. 1853.

Sir,

In reply to so much of your letter of the 16th inst, (which I received to day) as relates to the inquiry as to what price in California the government could afford to pay for refining gold I have to state that the government can only afford to pay refiners what depositors of Bullion will be willing to pay the government. As the cost of shipping gold dust from California will be about the same as bars or coin it is evident that depositors and especially the holders of large amounts will not be willing to pay a great deal more for refining in California than would be charged to them in Philada or any other Mint. Unless therefore the refining can be executed at a moderate rate only so much is likely to be refined there as will be sufficient for its own currency and not even this amount, if the charge for refining is too high. Our charge at this Mint is 5 cents per oz of gold, valued at about $18.00 per oz.; this includes only the cost of materials, fuel, workmen and wear and tear of apparatus actually employed in the refining operations. The salaries of officers, interest on buildings and on the silver employed in refining are not embraced in the charge of 5 cents per oz. The chief element of cost or charge for refining in the Mint at Phil^{a} is the acid, amounting to between three-fifths and three-fourths of the whole charge. As far as I can judge of the expenses of refining at California I think the government can safely offer 10 cents per oz and probably a larger sum. The actual cost of refining whether on large or small sums can only be determined by a direct trial. The cost will be somewhat affected by the quantity refined. The government however cannot contract to have a certain amount refined because depositors in view of the cost of refining may not make their deposits to the amount anticipated.

I enclose a copy of a letter from Mr. Hewston to me being his report upon the sulphuric acid process. The difficulty in refining to the supply of water was only made known to us on last Saturday. It only remains for us to adopt our own Mint process. The difficulties in regard to supplying that ~~region~~ Mint with nitric acid can be overcome. On Friday next I was promised a reply from some manufacturers of that acid to my proposition to furnish us with a supply on the 1st of Feb. next and afterwards for the Continued operations of the Mint. The Sulphuric acid already ordered is largely used in our process and will therefore be needed there.

Mr. Curtis is willing to put up the Refinery on our plan, to the satisfaction of the government, and furnish the Silver Coinage machinery for $14,000. Our Coiner and Melter and Refiner's Calculations show that this would be a reasonable sum and I recommend its acceptance. Mr. Curtis promises to send me a formal offer to day.

Mr. Booth is of opinion that it is better not to have a specification of the machinery &c for Refining but to have it agreed to be put up to the satisfaction of the government and that of the Melter and Refiner who will be on the spot and able to judge of its completeness.

I have the honor to be
with great respect
Your Ob.t Serv.t
James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington.

From the Director of the
Mint

In relation to refining
gold in California &
Enclosing Mr. Hewston's
Report on the Sulphuric
Acid process & to the
putting up of the refinery
by Mr. Curtis,

McKean

M-415
Nov 10/53
McKean

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Sept. 20. 1853.

Sir,

I enclose a copy of Mr. Curtis' proposition referred to in my letter of yesterday and which was presented to me to day. I am of opinion that the terms proposed are reasonable and if it meets with your approbation I will conclude the arrangement with him.

I have the honor to be
with great respect
your obt. servt.
James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City.

Hon J Ross Snowden, Phila: 20th Septemr 1853.
Director U. S. Mint,
Phila:

Sir:

I will supply the following pieces of machinery for the branch Mint of San Francisco, to wit: One Press of medium size, Four setts of moulds, Five setts of beds & punches, one milling machine with extra tubes & dies, Four setts of tubes, feeders & stakes and one pan for annealing planchets -

And I will, and do hereby contract and agree to erect a suitable and efficient apparatus in the separating department of said branch Mint for parting gold of twelve jars capacity, under the supervision of the Melter & Refiner, Mr. Hueston, or agreeably to plans and specifications to be furnished by yourself and to complete the whole ready for use by or before the 1st Feby: ensuing (provided the jars shall arrive in season) upon the following conditions, and for the sums hereinafter specified. To wit:

When said pieces of Machinery shall be completed, and shall have been inspected and accepted by yourself I will forward it in proper packages to the Superintendant of the branch Mint at San Francisco paying the freight thereon, and insuring the same and upon the delivery of the bills of lading with the policy of insurance to you payment shall be made to me or my assigns of the sum of Seven thousand five hundred Dollars; And provided further that when the branch Mint that I have heretofore contracted with the United States Government to erect and equip, shall be duly and formally delivered up by me or my agents to the authorized agents of the United States and you shall receive advice of the same from me then an additional payment of Six thousand five hundred Dollars shall be made to me or my assigns, as a full consideration for the erection of the aforesaid separating or parting Appatus.

Very respy. Yr. obt. St.

Jos. R. Curtis

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Sept 20. 1853.

Sir,

In compliance with your instructions I now enclose lists of the apparatus and articles required for the Assay Office in New York, and their estimated cost at Philada. prices.

I have the honor to be
with great respect,
your obt. servant,
James Ross Snowden,
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie,
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City.

M. & R. Dept.

Estimate

of the apparatus & fixtures required for the New York assay office. Melting and Refining Department.

Office

1	Large balance	$ 1200.
2	Tables & other furniture	150
		$ 1350.

Deposite Melting Room

1.	Furnaces	5 @ 100	$ 500
2.	Fire tools, tongs &c	5 sets @ 10	50
3.	Iron pans	3 @ 10	30
4.	Bar-moulds	16	5
5.	Hammers & picks		5
6.	Crucibles. Nos 10 to 30,	250 (6 months store)	250
7.	Slat floor		150
8.	Copper lined boxes	100 @ 2,75	275
9.	Buckets, brushes &c		25
10,	Grinding machine		200
11.	Figure punches		5
			$ 1495.

Granulating Room

1.	Granulating furnaces	4 @ 100.	$ 400
2.	Casting hoods	4 @ 7½	30
3.	Fire tools. ladles. tongs &c	4 sets @ 10	40
4.	Water pipes & cocks		50
5.	Platform scale		45
6.	Copper Kettles	4 @ 60	240
7.	Copper pans	6 @ 20	120
8.	Syphons & cocks	4 @ 7½	30
9.	Cast Iron pans	3 @ 25	75
10.	Platform scale		45
11.	Small copper pans. buckets &c		50
12.	Boxes. copper lined	100	325
13.	Crucibles	100	200
			$ 1650.

Grinding Room

1.	Grinding mill & gearing	$ 500
2.	Washing vat & Gearing	300
3.	Sieves, tubs, buckets, &c	300
4.	Pipes leaden	30
5.	Iron breaking floor	50
6.	Platform scale	45
7.	Drying ovens &c	250
		$ 1475.

Parting Room

1.	Parting houses		$1000
2.	Porcelain pots	50 @ 42	2100
3.	Gold syphon		2000
4.	Iron pipe, cocks & valves &c		300
5.	Gold filters & cars	4 @ 100	400
6.	Silver filters & cars	7 @ 50	350
7.	Chloride filters on cars	5 @ 80	400
8.	Precipitating vats	2 @ 300	600
9.	Salt-tank, wrought-iron		300
10.	Troughs cut from solid		100
11.	Reducing vats	7 @ 100	700
12.	Tanks for hot water	3 @ 150	450
13.	Platform scale & copper pan		30
14.	Acid jars & cocks	4 @ 20	80
15.	Tools, tubs, pitchers &c		500
			$9330

Drying Room &c.

1.	Furnaces & pans	3 @ 500	$1500
2.	Hydraulic press & gearing		2000
3.	Copper boxes for pressed metal	2	120
4.	Zinc furnace &c Tools &c		200
5.	Casting kettle & pan		80
6.	Cars for all the Refin'g Dept.		600
			$4500

Gold Melting Room

1.	Furnaces	3 @ 100	$300
2.	Fire tools		40
3.	Bar moulds		5°
4.	Latticed floor		400
5.	Casting hoods		20
6.	Pipes, buckets, brooms &c		50
7.	Boxes, copper, lined	60 @ 3.75	200
8.	Crucibles	100 @ 2	200
			$1215.00

Total Estimates

Office	$1350,00
Deposite Melting	1495,00
Granulating	1650,00
Grinding Sweeps &c	1475,00
Parting	9330,00
Drying	4500,00
Gold Melting	1215,00
	$21,015.00

$21,015.00

The above is a moderate estimate & would probably reach $25,000, exclusive of the gold syphon & stock of materials.

Assay Dept.	$1,859.50
M. & R. "	21,015.00
Aggregate –	$22,874.50

New York, Aſsay office.

Aſsay Department.

List of implements requisite for the aſsay Office in N. York with an estimate of their cost.

3	aſsay Balances with weights	$ 405	
3	Small " for weighing Silver	75	
3	pairs Shears for using at balances	7	50
3	" forceps " "	3	
3	" pliers " "	2	25
1	Balance for heavy work with weights	60	
1	Humid aſsay apparatus	100	
2	aſsay Furnaces	40	
12	extra mouffles	3	75
12	extra bridges	3	
12	" grates	3	
6	" draft doors	1	
2	spring aſsay tongs	6	
1	Shovel	1	
1	Scoop		50
2	pokers	1	
6	black lead annealing pans	1	50
1	gouge to loosen aſsays		50
1	cast Iron sand bath	3	
1	wooden Mattraſs tongs		50
1	sand glaſs	1	50
1	Board for bottle stand		50
2	pairs Steel mills or rolls	250	
2	Steel anvils or Stakes with blocks	14	
1	cast Iron do do	1	
2	large planishing hammers	6	
2	Small hammers for Marking	1	
2	" Punches "		50
2	pairs forceps to hold aſsay buttons	2	
1	large hammer for cutting aſsay slips from bars	2	
6	Chisels for do do	2	
	Amount carried forward	$ 998.	—

	Amount brot forward	$998.	
1	Balance with weights from 5 oz down	30	
4	dozen Matrasses	12	
1/2	" Small glass Funnels	2	
3	pint glass funnels	2	
1	half gallon pitcher		50
1	pint do		50
3	dozen pipe clay annealing cups	2	
2	copper pans for holding do	2	
1	Basin for washing assays		50
3	pint glass jars	1	50
3	Small pipettes	3	
6	boards to hold assay slips	2	00
1	pair Shears	2	50
1	copper refrigerator or condenser	5	
3	two gallon retorts for distilling Nitric acid	6	
1/2	dozen glass condensing tubes	6	
1/2	" connecting do	6	
3	receivers with small glass tubes	6	
6	half gallon glass matrasses	6	
2	circular cast Iron pans	3	
1	Sheet Iron Sheild	1	50
6	two gallon bottles with ground stoppers	8	
6	gallon " do do	6	
2	porcelain bowls for reducing Silver	6	
1	Copper Still with connecting pipe leaden Worm & worm tube	20	
		$1138.	

Estimate of Materials for Assay Office in New York requisite for a years work of say $50,000,000

3000 lbs pure Nitric acid @ 9 ¢	$ 270	
150 " " Muriatic acid @ 4 ¢	6	
20,000 Cupels @ $12 per 1000	240	
225 lbs of lead @ 6 ¢	13	50
1200 bushels of charcoal @ 16 ¢	192	
	$721.	50

Recapitulation

Implements	$1138
Materials	721.50
Total	$1.859.50

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Sept. 21. 1853.

Sir,

In compliance with your letter of yesterday I have caused the Treasurer of the Mint to forward to Elisha Taylor Esqr Depy at Detroit $15,000.00 as follows.

gold dollars.		$5,000
Silver -	Half dollars	3,000
	1/4 dollars	5,000
	dimes	1,000
	1/20 "	1,000
		$15,000.00

I have the honor to be
with great respect,
your obt. Servt.
James Ross Snowden
Director

Hon. James Guthrie,
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City

Mint of the United States
Philada. 22 Sept. 1853

ir,

I have the honor to enclose my account & vouchers for silver coin sent to certain depositaries according to instructions from the Department. It will be necessary for the settlement of my account hat corresponding drafts should be issued on the Bullion Fund, as heretofore, in favor of the depositaries named, & I have the honor to request that ou will order them to be issued.

very respectfully
your obt. servt.
Danl. Sturgeon
Treasurer
U. S. M.

on. Jas. Guthrie,
ecy of Treasury
Washington.

P.S. It will be noticed that voucher No. 3 is wanting, & that voucher No. 4 is for $200 less than the credit claimed in the a/c. The amounts forwarded to these Depositaries were those stated in the a/c., they having failed to send vouchers in the cases referred to. It is supposed that the Department has the means of testing the correctness of the items in the a/c.

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Sept. 22. 1853.

Dear Sir,

In view of the various questions connected with the establishment of the Branch Mint at San Francisco I have requested our Melter and Refiner Prof. Booth to visit Washington and have a personal interview with you. Mr. Maher of the firm of Maher and Landis extensive manufacturers of Chemicals accompanies him and will confer with you in regard to supplying that Mint with acids.

We must at all events be able to commence operations there in February and by practical experience ascertain the cost of refining. But the future workings of the Mint will depend upon the fact whether depositors can afford to ~~here~~ make deposits — hence the necessity of having the work done as cheaply as possible.

I have considered that Mr Booth's personal explanations may be valuable to you.

I have the honor to be
faithfully and truly yours,
James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City.

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Sept. 24. 1853.

Sir,

I have accepted the offer of Mr. Curtis to supply the apparatus and all other things necessary for the coinage of silver and refining of gold at San Francisco. He has been furnished with specifications of the articles to be furnished. The work is to be done to the satisfaction of the government. I will inspect the machinery and articles for the silver coinage and the ~~melting~~ parting apparatus and all other things necessary for refining is to be put up to the satisfaction of Mr. Hewston the Melter and Refiner. The articles to be used for melting merely, was provided for in the first contract given to Mr. Curtis.

I have the honor to be,
with great respect
Your obt. servant.
James Ross Snowden
Director

Hon. P. G. Washington,
Asst. Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City.

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Sept 24. 1853.

Sir,

In compliance with your letter of yesterday I have made an arrangement with Messrs Maher and Landis to supply acids for the California Mint on the 1st of February next, and also to furnish a sufficient supply hereafter. The particulars of the agreement I will communicate to you next week.

I have the honor to be
with great respect
your Obt. Servant,
James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasury.
Washington City.

Balance on hand A.M. Sept 19. 1853.		$ 566.921.08
Denominations Gold		
Double Eagles	$ 15.000.00	
Eagles	5.000.00	
Half Do	10.000.00	
Quarter Do	5.000.00	
Dollars "Gold"	35.235.00	
Bars "Do"	142.344.61	
Remts in Refy	21.462.50	$ 234.042.11
Silver		
Dollars	$ 4.508.00	
Half Do	39.000.00	
Quarter Do	272.730.00	
Dimes	11.500.00	
Half Do	4.550.00	
Remts in Refy	590.97	332.878.97
		$ 566.921.18

Balance A.M. Sept 19.		$ 566.921.18
Amt of Coinage from Sept 19 @ 24th incl		
Gold – Double Eagles	$ 741.560.00	
" Eagles	276.140.00	
" Half Do	176.825.00	
" Quarter Do	151.845.00	$ 1.346.370.00
Silver Dollars "from Weigh Room"	16.834.00	
Half Dollars	40.000.00	
Quarter Do	210.000.00	
Dimes	20.000.00	
Half Do	10.000.00	296.834.00
Total means for week end'g Sept 24th		$ 2.210.125.18

Total means for week end'g Sept 24. $ 2.210.125.07

Disbursements from 17th to 24th inc

Amt Paid Gold Warrants	$ 176.465.40	
〃 〃 Silver Purchases	139.269.47	
〃 Refd for Assay Gold	727.50	
〃 〃 〃 〃 Silver	17.50	
〃 Sent to Depositary	15.000.00	331.479.8
Bal on hand Prw Sept 24th 1853		$ 1.878.645.2

Denominations

Gold		
Double Eagles	$ 785.000.00	
Eagles	276.140.00	
Half Do	191.825.00	
Quarter Do	131.845.00	
Gold Dollars	1.000.00	
Do & Bars	97.911.24	
Cents in Prop	15.751.54	$ 1.499.472.7
Silver		
Dollars	20.350.00	
Half Do	41.000.00	
Quarter Do	298.705.00	
Dimes	13.300.00	
Half Do	5.400.00	
Cents in Prop	417.47	379.172.4
Total Bal as above		$ 1.878.645.2

Mint of the U. States.
Phila Sept 24. 1853.

James Ross Snowden
Director

332.878.97
296.834.
629.712.97
379.172.47
250.540.50

Silver payments during week.

Payments and distribution
of silver during the week $ 250,540.50
Amt. on hand for distribution
and payments — $ 379,172.47

Mint of the United States
Philada Sept 26th 1853

Sir

I enclose a memorandum of bills of goods shipped per "Morning Light," for the Branch Mint at San Francisco. Cala. on which I have effected an insurance of Three thousand dollars.

I have had prepared, and will send by Adams & Co express a sufficient quantity of dies for that branch.

It is understood, that the Articles furnished for the Branch Mint at San Francisco, are not to be paid for, until a future appropriation of Congress shall be made for that purpose.

I have the honor to be
Very Respectfully
Yr obdt Servt.
James Ross Snowden.
Director

Hon. James Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City.

Goods for Branch Mint San Francisco Cala
Shipped per "Morning Light"

	$ c
Oil Vitriol ————	452,56
Annealing Tubes ————	400.70
Hardware &c &c ————	648,52
Tow Linen Mitts ————	72.00
Buckskin do ————	36,00
Bags ————	25,00
Rags ————	65,00
Caaches ————	85.00
Boxes ————	3 00
Steel Files &c &c ————	100,00
Trucks ————	80,00
	$ 1967.78c
Sulphuric Acid	458,22
	$ 2426.00

Dr. United States

1853.

June 30 To **Silver Coinage** for this Amt. remitted in Silver Coins as per Order of the Secy. Treasy. U States to U.S. Depositories, as follows.

To	Washington:	Boston:	New York:	St. Louis.	Charlesn.	Baltl.	Norfolk	Savan.	
June 9	2,000.	2,000.	3,000.	1,000.	1,000	2,000.	1,000.	1,000.	
" 17	. .	. .	200.	. .	. .	. .	. .		
" 30	. .	. .	. .	200	. .	. .	. .	Pittsburg	
						. .	. .	5,000.	18,400.0

Date		Particulars		Amount
Sep:r	30	To **Gold Coinage**: for Amt. remitted in Gold Coins per Order Secy. Treasy. U. S. in 3rd. Qr: 1853, as follows.		
		July 8 To Washington in part paymt. draft No. 374	180,000.00	
		Sep: 21 " Detroit, Michigan, U.S. Depository	5,000.00	
		" 29 " Chicago, Illinois	2,000.00	187,000.00
"	"	To **Silver Coinage**: for Amt. remitted during 3rd. Quarter, 1853, in Silver Coins per Order Secy. Treasy. U.S., as follows.		
		July 8 To Washington in part paymt. of draft No. 374	20,000.00	
		Aug: 24 " Charleston, S.C. U.S. depository	2,000.00	
		Sep: 21 " Detroit, Michigan, "	10,000.00	
		" 29 " Chicago, Illinois, "	3,000.00	35,000.00
"	"	To **Mint of the U. States**: balance this day:		7,771,854.16
				8,012,254.16

Bullion Account

Cr.

853.			
pril 12	By Balance as per Acct: rendered		6,812,254
ept. 30	" Gold Coinage by Amt: recd: from the Asst: Treasr: at New York during the 3rd quarter in Gold Coins per Transfer draft No: 732, viz:	500,000.00	
"	" By Do Do in payment of U.S. Treasury draft No: 387, viz:	700,000.00	1,200,000
			8,012,254.16

Mint of the United States:
Treasurer's Office,
September 30th, 1853.

Danl. Sturgeon
Treasurer U.S.

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Oct. 1. 1853.

Sir,

For your information I enclose a statement showing the receipts and disbursements of Gold and Silver Coin from the Treasury of the Mint for the week ending to day.

You will perceive we have on hand for distribution and payment,

Gold Coin	$ 1,766,520.00
Silver "	442,449.00

I also enclose a statement showing the Coinage of the Month of September, (1853). Our efforts to increase the silver coinage have been entirely successful, as you will see by this statement. I also send you a statement showing the silver deposites and Coinage since the new law respecting the silver Coinage has gone into effect. It will be seen that the Coinage of silver

has been increased from $419,000 in April
or $610,000 in May to the sum of $1,250,000
in September.

I have the honor to be
with great respect
Your Obt. Servant,
James Ross Snowde
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City

Weekly Statement.

Sept 26th Bal on hand Acc (Per Last Report)		$ 1.878.645.21
(Denominations of coin sent last a/c)		
Amts recd from Sept 26 to Oct 1st incl		

Gold

Double Eagles	$ 876.660.	
Gold Dollars	113.413.	
Recd from Treasr on/c Sweeps	7.797.96	997.870.96

Silver

Dollars	3.358.	
Half Do	128.000	
Quarter Do	164.000	
Dimes	24.000	
Half Dimes	14.000	333.358.00
Total means for week endg Oct 1st/53.		$ 3.209.874.17

Disbursements (Sept 26 @ Oct 1st)

Amt Paid Gold Warrants	$ 923.380.25	
" " Silver Purchases	71.830.50	
" Resd for assay Gold	600.00	
" " " " Silver	23.50	
" Sent to Depositary	5.000.00	
" " Premium on Silver	69.72	$ 1.000.903.97
Bal on hand Per Oct 1st/53		$ 2.208.970.20

Denominations of Balance

Gold

Double Eagles	$ 980.000	
Eagles	286.140	
Half Eo	190.000	
Quarter Eo	131.000	
Dollars	69.413	
Gold Bars	97.911.24	
Remnants in Buf &c	12.056.00	$ 1.766.520.24

over →

Amt of Gold on hand		$ 1.766.520.24
Silver		
Dollars	$ 18.905.	
Half Dos	110.000	
Quarter Dos	283.000	
Dimes	18.700	
Half Dimes	10.400	
Remnants in Box &c	1.444.96	442.449.96
Total amt of Bal Due Oct 1st/53		$ 2.208.970.20

Mint of the United States.
Philad. Oct 1st 1853.
James Ross Snowden,
Director.

Statement showing the amount of silver purchased and deposited under the Act of Congress of March 3. 1853 relating to Silver Coinage, and the Coinage of Silver during same period.

Silver.

	Deposits & purchases	Coinage.
April 1853.	2,550,000	419,007.
May "	1,447,000	610,004
June "	680,000	650,000
July "	611,000	710,000
August "	860,000	830,000
September "	320,000	1,250,000
Totals	$6,468,000	$4,489,011
Coinage	4,489,011	
Balance in process of Coinage —	1,978,989	

Mint of the U. States
Phil^a. Oct 1. 1853
J. R. Snowden
Director

A Statement of the Coinage at the Mint of the United States Philadelphia for the Month of Sept. 1853.

Gold

	Pieces	Value
Double Eagles.	166,097	$3.321,940
Eagles	27,614	276,140
½ do	35.365	176825
¼ do	60,738	151.845
Dollars,	294.848	294.848
Pieces	584,662	$4,221,598

Silver

	Pieces	Value
1/2 Dollars.	498.000	249.000
1/4 do	3,504.000	876.000
Dimes	900,000	90,000
½ do	700,000	35.000
Pieces	5,602,000	$1,250,000

Copper

Cents,	310,000	$3,100

Recapitulation

	Pieces	Value
Gold	584,662	$4.221,598
Silver	5,602,000	1,250,000
Copper	310,000	3,100
Pieces,	6,496,662	$5,474,698

P.S. Amount of Gold Coinage for Sept,	$4,221,598
" Deposites "	3,025,000
Excess of Coinage over deposites	$1,196,598
Amount of Silver Coinage	$1,250,000
" " Deposites	320,000
Excess of Coinage over deposites	$930,000
Total Excess of Coinage beyond Deposites Exclusive of Copper	$2,126,598

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Oct. 1. 1853.

Sir,

I have to state that it is the intention of Messrs Hewston and Eckfeldt to set out for San Francisco on the 20th inst. They wish to leave ~~to leave~~ Phila. about the 16th and sail from New York on the day above stated. In order that Mr. Eckfeldt may be properly informed of the agreement between Mr. Carter and the government, I have to request that you will send me a full copy of the agreement and specifications. That which relates to the silver coinage and refining of gold I will supply him with. I would be glad also if you would give such instructions on the subject as you may think advisable. Messrs Hewston and Eckfeldt are desirous of being supplied with some money, and have requested me to call your attention to it. To the former it might be well to give, say $700.– to the latter, say $1500. If these amounts exceed their actual expenses they can credit the same on their per diem allowance.

Mr. Hewston requests me to say that he is desirous of naming a per diem compensation to the men he designs taking with him. and also, that some provision be made for the payment of their expenses to San Francisco. The workmen need not leave Phil^{a} until November or December, but he wishes to make the arrangement and selection before he starts. It is not requisite to take more than four or five men.

It is necessary that the Branch Mint at San Francisco be supplied with say $30,000 in silver, part of which say $10. or 15,000 ought to be pure silver or silver unmixed with alloy. As the silver coin requires refining before it can be used, I would suggest that a small supply of fine silver be furnished. If it cannot be furnished from a nearer and more convenient point, it to be supplied from this Mint. It may be got however in California or some more convenient locality.

I have the honor to be
with great respect
Your obt. servt.
James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie,
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City.

From the Director
of
the Mint

In relation to

Messrs. Hewston & Eckfeldt.

McLean

Directed Mr Dunning to issue
warrants for these amts Oct 8/53
GR
CC

Advance to Mr
Hewston —— 700 —
& to
Eckfeldt —— 500.

as agents. out of appn
for Branch Mint
at San Francisco.

As to the men. say
department is willing
to pay their expenses
to California & allow
them 6$ per day from
M 404
the time of their
arrival in ~~California~~ San
Oct. 4/53
McLean
Francisco — 1 Oct 1853

Mint of the United States.
Philada. ~~Sept.~~ Oct. 1. 1853.

Sir,

I stated in my letter of 24th ult. that I would send you a statement of the details of the arrangement made for the supply of acids for the Branch Mint at San Francisco. I now enclose copies of my correspondence with Messrs Maher and Landis as they show the terms of our agreement.

I learn that Messrs Maher and Landis have shipped to day by the "Pampero" from New York the acids they were to supply.

I have the honor to be
with great respect,
Your Obt. Servant,
James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie,
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City.

From the Director of the Mint

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Oct. 4, 1853.

Sir,

On, or about the 15th inst I will be able to announce to the public that silver coins will be paid out at the Mint in exchange for gold coins in accordance with the 4th section of the Act of the 3rd of March 1853. Mint Laws 58.

Before preparing for your examination and approval the regulations for the transmission of silver coins I have to request that you will furnish me with a list of the "Assistant Treasurers, Depositories and other officers" whom it is intended to supply. If you have made an arrangement with Messrs Adams & Co. for transporting the silver I would be glad to be informed of the terms.

The supply of silver bullion has lately fallen off; this in part arises from the fact that the price of silver advanced in London; the recent advices show however that it has slightly declined and I think our purchases will increase. But if that should not be the case

we will be under the necessity of increasing
our price in view of the existing laws which
seem to require that the government shall
supply a silver Coinage. I hope however that
an increased price may not be necessary.

I have the honor to be,
Very Respectfully
Yours Obt. Servt.
James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie.
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City.

Oct 3	Bal on hand A.M. (per last statement)		$ 2.208.970.20
	Amt recd from Oct 3d to 8th incl		
	Gold		
	Double Eagles	809.400	
	Dollars	108.540	917.940.00
	Silver		
	Half Dollars	4.000	
	Quarter Dols	290.000	
	Dimes	1.000	
	Half Dos	5.000	300.000.00
	Total means for week endg Oct 8th		$ 3.426.910.20
	Disbursements		
	Amt Paid Gold Warrants	$ 468.881.48	
	" " Silver Purchases	58.688.70	
	" recd for alloy Gold	540.00	
	" " " " Silver	15.00	
	" Sent to Depository	60.000.00	588.125.18
	Bal on hand P.M. Oct 8th		$ 2.838.785.02
	Denominations of Balance		
Gold	Double Eagles	1.615.000	
"	Eagles	291.140	
"	Half Dos	190.000	
"	Quarter Dos	126.000	
"	Dollars	91.413	
"	Gold Bars	21.247.96	
"	Remnts in Ref	11.227.00	$ 2.346.027.96
Silver	Dollars	$ 16.311.00	
	Half Dos	56.000.00	
	Quarter Dos	407.000.00	
	Dimes	5.100.00	
	Half Dos	7.600.00	
	Remnts in Ref	746.06	492.757.06
	Amt of Bal		$ 2.838.785.02

Mint U States
Phila Oct 8. 1853

James Ross Snowden
Director

Mint of the United States.
Phil^a Octr. 10. 1853.

Sir,

I beg to call your attention to my letter of the 1st inst. Messrs. Hewston and Eckfeldt are anxious that I should be prepared to make arrangements for their departure to San Francisco, from New York on the 20th inst.

I would also be pleased to hear from you in reply to my letter of the 4th inst relative to the distribution of silver coins.

I have the honor to be,
Very Respectfully
Your Obt. Servant,
James Ross Snowden
Director

Hon. James Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City

From the Director of the Mint

In relation to my letters
of the 2d & 4th Inst

McKean

The money required
for Mess Heaton &
Eckfeldt has been sent

As to silver change.

1 Request Director to
to give notice that
he will pay out
change in exchange
for gold.

2. Send him the list
of officers, which I
XII-424
directed some days
Oct 10/53
since - upon receipt of
Superintendent
his letter of ~~the~~ 4th - to
be prepared. and instruct him to adhere to
the regulations ~~those~~ contemplated by the
4th section of the Act 17 Feb 1853.

Oct 11 1853

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Octr. 11, 1853.

Sir,

In reply to your favor of yesterday, I have the honor to state that I will take measures to secure the construction of the apparatus and implements for the Assay Office at New York by the 1st of February next in compliance with your instructions.

There are many difficulties in the way of using a press in stamping bars. Besides, each bar has a separate number, fineness, weight and value. The practice which has prevailed at this Mint is to stamp them by hand, as is done in the French and British Mints. It might be well to improve the stamps by the addition of an Eagle or some other device. I would suggest the Eagle and if you approve of it I will have a stamp of that kind prepared. Our present form is to indicate the Mint where the bars are made, and of course those for New York, must be so marked.

I have the honor to be,
with great respect,
your obt. servant,
James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie,
Sec. of the Treas.y
Washington City.

Mint of the United States.
Philad^a Oct. 13. 1853.

Sir,

I have received a draft from the Treasurer of the U. States for $ 1200. which I presume is sent to me to supply Messrs Hewston and Eckfeldt as suggested in my letter of the 1st inst. I am expecting to hear from you in regard to the supply of silver for the Branch at San Francisco and also to receive copies of the agreement with Mr Curtis, both which subjects I had the honor to present in the letter of the above date. Also, on the subject of employing workmen here and taking them to San Francisco. On this latter point I received to day a letter from Mr. Hewston a copy of which I enclose to you.

I would be glad to hear from you on the subject of the distribution of the silver Coins in reply to my letter of the 4th inst.

I have the honor to be,
with great respect,
Your ob^t Serv^t
Hon. James Guthrie.
Sec. of the Treas. of the Treas.y
James Ross Snowden

Copy

Philadelphia Oct 13th 1853

Dear Sir

I beg leave to call your attention to the employment of the workmen in the San Francisco branch Mint as the mint must necessarily go into operation on the first of February it is essential that the men engaged should be conversant with the work in the Philadelphia Mint in order to avoid loss of time and possible danger of loss of the precious Metals, From my conversations with many of the workmen I doubt whether good hands can be obtained without some inducement; and since the government cannot bear their travelling expenses I would suggest as the best expedient, that they receive their present mint wages, from the time they leave the Phil, Mint, until they are engaged in the California Mint.

I like the proposition of the Secretary of the Treasury to advance the travelling expenses to those that require it, deducting the same from their wages in California, they giving security for the same, and I suppose arrangements will be made to that effect.

Respectfully, John Houston Jr,

Col J. Ross Snowden Director U.S. Mint

Mint of the United States.
Philad^a. Oct. 14. 1853

Sir,

I received to day your favor of the 11th inst. I hope to be able to present the estimates for the fiscal year ending June 30. 1855 in about ten days. I am now engaged on them. I find some difficulty in preparing estimates for the Branch Mint at San Francisco.

In addition to the regular estimates I suppose it is expected that I should present estimates for the Current fiscal year for the New York Assay office and the Branch at San Francisco which may be embraced in a separate bill from the ordinary appropriation bill. or be placed in the deficiency bill.

I wrote to the Supt of the Branch Mint at New Orleans to send me his estimates. Not hearing from him I sent a T/D. to him to day.

I will conform to your instructions in regard to the manner and time of presenting the estimates, so that you may be enabled to have them printed in accordance with the resolution of the 7th of Jan. 1846.

I have the honor to be
with great respect
your obt. servant,
James Ross Snowden
Director

Hon. James Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Oct. 14, 1853.

Sir,

In your letter of yesterday you state that "the Metropolitan and Mechanic Institute of Washington desire that Mr. Booth should be allowed to prepare, their institution a die for their medal". I suppose that Mr. Booth's name has inadvertently been used for Mr. Peale's, who has heretofore had something to do with medals. But no dies for medals are made at the Mint. The two best die sinkers for medals in this country are Mr. C. C. Wright of New York and Mr. F. N. Mitchell of Boston.

I have the honor to be
with great respect
your obt. servant,
James Ross Snowden
Director

Hon James Guthrie
Sec. of the Treas.
Washington City.

Mint of the United States
Phil^a. Oct. 15th 1853

Sir

I enclose a statement showing the receipts and payment of coins during the week ending to day, and showing the denominations of the amount in the Treasury of the Mint,

I have the honor to be
with great respect
Your obt. Servt,
James Ross Snowden.
Director

Hon James Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City.

Oct 10th Bal on hand A/c "per last statement"		$ 2,838,785.02
Amt rec'd from Oct 10th to 15th incl		
Gold		
Quarter Eagles	$ 127,540.	
Dollars	61,435	
Gold Bars	1,044,246.80	$ 1,233,221.80
Silver		
Half Dollars	$ 47,000	
Quarter Do	303,000	
Half Dimes	10,000	360,000.00
Total means for week endg Oct 15th		$ 4,432,006.82

Disbursements for week

Amt Paid Gold Warrants	$ 1,317,219.41	
" " Silver Purchases	144,520.88	
" rec'd for assay Gold	40.00	
" " " " Silver	20.50	$ 1,461,800.79
Balance on hand Per Oct 15th		$ 2,970,206.03

Denominations of Balance

ld	Double Eagles	$ 1,550,000,	
"	Eagles	246,140	
"	Half Do	185,000	
"	Quarter Do	248,540	
"	Dollars	97,435	
	Remnants in Bars	9,407.50	$ 2,336,522.50
Silver	Dollars	7,153,	
"	Half Do	50,000	
"	Quarter Do	570,000	
"	Dimes	100	
"	Half Do	5,200	
"	Remnants in Bars	1,230.53	633,683.53
		Amt of Bal	$ 2,970,206.03

Phila Oct 15. 1853

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Oct. 15. 1853.

Sir,

I have your favor of yesterday. I have paid Mr. Hewston $700. and Mr. Geo. Eckfeldt $500. in compliance with your instructions, and have thus disbursed the amt. of the draft received from the Treas. U. States.

I can supply the Banks of your city with $20,000 in gold dollars, in exchange for other gold coins or in payment of a Treasury draft.

I have the honor to be
with great respects
your obt. servant,

James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City.

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Oct. 15. 1853.

Sir,

I have your favor of yesterday. I have paid Mr. Hewston $700. and Mr. Geo. Eckfeldt $500. in compliance with your instructions, and have thus disbursed the amt. of the draft received from the Treas. U. States.

I can supply the Banks of your city with $20,000 in gold dollars, in exchange for other gold coins or in payment of a Treasury draft.

I have the honor to be
with great respect
your obt. servant,

James Ross Snowden
Director,

Hon. James Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City.

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Oct. 17, 1853.

Sir,

I have your favor of the 15th inst, with the enclosures stated. Mr Hewston has left us to day and Mr Eckfeldt goes tomorrow. They leave New York on the 20th inst for San Francisco. I have given them letters to Dr. Birdsall Superintendent. And given Mr Eckfeldt copies of the agreements between the government and Mr Curtis and also a letter of instructions.

I have the honor to be,
with great respect
Your Obt. Servant,
James Ross Snowden,
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie,
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City.

Mint of the United States,
Oct. 18, 1853.

Sir,

In conformity with the Act of March 4, 1853, c. 97, I have now the honor to present to you a quarterly account of the expenditures of the Mint, for the two quarters which have transpired since the passage of the act.

Expenditures in the 2d. quarter 1853.

Incidental & Contingent Expenses & Repairs	$ 54,699.72
Wages of Workmen	25,010.13
Salaries of Officers & Clerks	5,550.00
Total	$ 85,259.85

Expenditures in the 3d. quarter 1853.

Incidental & Contingent Exps. & Repairs	$ 63,486.73
Wages of Workmen	31,250.54
Salaries of Officers & Clerks	5,550.00
Total	$ 100,287 27

Very respectfully,
Your obt. Servt.
James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie,
Secretary of Treasury.

Mint of the U. States.
Philada. Oct. 18. 1853.

Sir,

I enclose a copy of a letter from Messrs Maher & Landis to which I ask your attention. I think their request should be granted, with this modification however that the drafts should be made on the Treasury Department at Washington inasmuch as we have no funds which we could appropriate to its payment at the Mint.

I make this recommendation, because, 1. we have not been able to obtain a reasonable contract with any other house to supply nitric acid for the San Francisco Branch Mint, and are therefore under some obligations to Messrs Landis & Maher. 2. The offer they make to supply the acid is at a very low rate rendering their profit very doubtful. 3. The ~~nitrate~~ nitrate of soda, shipped from Valparaiso to San Francisco would be in possession of the government until its value is returned in the tons of Nitric acid to the Branch Mint. & The advances they request would be met by two and a half months supply of parting acid.

In the event of your agreeing to the proposition of Messrs Maher & Landis, the advances they require could be made by authorising Theodore W. Riley of New York (No. 42 South St.) who is the agent of Messrs Alsop & Co. of Valparaiso, to draw upon the Treasury department upon exhibiting bills of lading and value for the nitrate of Soda shipped from Valparaiso to the Branch Mint at San Francisco. Or it may be arranged in such other manner as may occur to you as being most convenient and satisfactory to the Department.

I have the honor to be
with great respect
Your Ob. Servant,
James Ross Snowden
Director

Hon. James Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City.

Aramingo Chemical Works: October 17th, 1853.

Col: J.R. Snowden, U.S. Mint, Philada.

Dear Sir:

We are daily expecting to receive from New York the bills of lading of 90 carboys Nitric Acid which we sent on the 8th and 10th insts. – 50 to the clipper Neptune's Car and 40 to the clipper San Francisco, both of which were to have sailed on the 11th or 12th insts. as our Mr. Maher was told when in New York on the 7th inst., being on that day almost loaded; the lowest freight we could obtain was $1.00 pr. foot. We are now watching for the last day's loading of three other clippers in the same port (as that is the most opportune time for such freight) to forward the 10 carboys balance of 100 by the "Dashing Wave" which will begin loading here on Wednesday next; we send ½ of our own Apparatus, the other ½ we have sent to New York to be shipped thence. We have also written to San Francisco for the purchase of a site within 2 or 3 miles distance of the Branch Mint, and as our Mr. M. intends leaving by the Steamer of 20th December next, he will have 6 weeks before him to put up and roof our Apparatus.

Uncertain as we are left by reliable information as to being able to find at all times in Valparaiso, a ready supply of Nitrate of Soda, you would greatly facilitate our operations by assisting us to obtain at once in two Shipments to San Francisco from the Peruvian ports, the 100 or 125,000.℔ Nitrate of Soda which we shall need for our first year's contract - your authorizing us to instruct the house in Valparaiso with which we have already entered into correspondence on the subject, to draw at 60 days sight on the Treasurer of the U. S. Mint in Philad.a, for the Amount of these two shipments (from $2500. or to $3000.) would meet all our need of help in this important matter of supply - and, as our monthly deliveries of Nitric Acid to the Branch Mint in San Francisco would not fall short of $1100.–, against which, in part or for the whole, we would take in payment this Nitrate of Soda, a few months would liberate us from our indebtedness to the Government for the cost and Shipping charges of this large Lot, which, in the meanwhile, would as a matter of course, belong to the Mint.

Hoping that you will consider our request as a reasonable one, from the peculiarity of the Valparaiso market and the short time we have to gather our means for the fulfillment of our contract, we will do ourselves the pleasure again of calling at the Mint in a day or two to talk the matter over with you and Professor Booth.

Very truly & Respectfully Yours,
(signed)
Maher & Landis

P.S. As the Mail from Valparaiso reaches here in 35 days and 60 days is the Average sailing time between that port and San Francisco, Insurances are effected in these Atlantic ports on Shipments from Chili or Peru to California, upon receipts of bills of lading.

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Oct. 19. 1853.

Sir,

I have the honor to suggest the propriety of transferring, say one million of dollars of silver bullion from the Branch Mint at New Orleans to this Mint.

Our silver transactions under the act of March 3. 1853 are as follows.

Silver bullion purchased at the Mint of the U. States, Philada. from April 1st 1853 to the 18th of October same year	$6,676,000.00
" Coinage during same period	5,184,000.00
Amount in process of Coinage	$1,496,000.00

New Orleans Branch Mint.

Silver purchases to 30th Sept 1853.	$3,615,000.00
" Coinage during same period	800,000.00
Amount of silver bullion on hand.	2,815,000.00

As our silver Coinage at this Mint exceeds a million a month it is evident that we must increase our supply of bullion, and in view of the Coinage at New Orleans being compa=ratively small and the supply of bullion very large it would seem proper that a portion of it should be transferred to this Mint.

I have obtained an offer from Major Cass and Mr. Sandford of the firm of Adams & Co's Express to bring from New Orleans to this City, say one million of silver bullion, via the western rivers, at the following rates — 4/10 of one per cent. without special insurance — equal to $4,000.- per million — with insurance in addi=tion 6/10 of one per cent. equal to $6,000.- They will undertake to deliver it here by the 1st day of December next; which will be in time to suit our operations here.

This offer seems a reasonable one, and in view of the circumstances I submit it to your consideration.

I will announce tomorrow or the next day that we will exchange silver coins for gold at this Mint. I would be glad to have your views in regard to the distribution to other points, in reply to my former letter on this subject.

I have the honor to be
with great respect,
Your obt. servant,
James Ross Snowden,
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie.
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City.

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Oct. 22. 1853.

Sir,

I have received your favor of the 20th and communicated its contents to Messrs Maher and Landis to whom it is entirely satisfactory. The conditions on which the drafts will be made, will be complied with in accordance with your instructions.

On the 1st inst I sent you a copy of Messrs Maher and Landis's letter to me and my reply which they acceded to. These letters constitute their agreement with the government being their offer and our acceptance. If you think it important to have a formal Contract drawn up I will prepare it, but it seems to me that it is sufficiently expressed by our correspondence and equally binding.

If you think otherwise I will have articles of agreement prepared and signed.

I have the honor to be
Yours Respectfully
James Ross Snowden
Director

Hon. James Guthrie
Sec. of the Treas. y

Mint of the United States
Philada Oct, 22d 1853

Sir

I enclose a statement showing the receipts and payments of Coins during the week ending to day, and showing the denominations of the amount in the Treasury of the Mint,

I have the honor to be,
with great respect
Your Obt Svt
James Ross Snowden
Director

Hon James Guthrie
Sec, of the Treasury
Washington City

Oct 17th	Bal on hand A.M. (See last Statement)		$ 2.970,206,03
	Amt recd from Oct 17th @ 22nd inclusive		
	Gold		
	Dollars	$ 209,085	
	Gold Bars	737.559.86	946,644.86
	Silver		
	Dollars	$ 13.340	
	Half Ds	23.000	
	Quarter Ds	81.000	
	Dimes	62.000	
	Half Ds	24.000	203,340.00
	Total means for week endg Oct 22nd		$ 4.120,190.89
	Disbursements Oct 17 @ 22nd incl		
	Amt Paid Gold Warrants	$ 1,012,008,18	
	" " Silver Purchases	212,720.97	
	" resd for assay Gold	40.00	
	" " Silver	13.50	
	" Paid Silver Warrant	116.86	$ 1.224,899,51
	Bal on hand P.M. Oct 22nd		$ 2.895,291.38
	Denominations of Balance		
Gold	Double Eagles	$ 1.320,000,	
"	Eagles	240.000	
"	Half Ds	170.000	
"	Quarter Ds	232,540	
"	Dollars	190.085	
"	Gold Bars	46.151.62	
"	Remits in Bf	19.135.50	$ 2.217,912,12
"	Dollars	$ 13.157.00	
	Half Ds	48,500,00	
	Quarter Ds	563,500,00	
	Dimes	36.100,00	
	Half Ds	15.000,00	
	Remits in Bf	1.122.26	677,379.26
	Amt of Bal		$ 2.895,291.38

Phila Oct 22nd 1853

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Oct. 22. 1853.

Sir,

I have your favor of the 20th inst. Mr. Sandford of Adams & Co.'s express will see me on Monday, at which time I will write to you in regard to the transfer from New Orleans.

We are prepared to pay the Asst. Treas at New York $200.000 in Silver Coin, and $100.000 to the Asst. Treas. Boston should he accept your offer.

We have commenced to day, exchanging silver coin for gold at the Mint. Large amounts of silver will thus be put in circulation not only for this locality but for other places. In view of which, your remark is entirely proper, "that for the present it is prudent to suspend the arrangement for transferring to more distant points"

I have the honor to be
your Respectfully
James Ross Snowden
Director

Hon. James Guthrie
Sec. of the Treas.y

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Oct. 24. 1853.

Sir,

I have your favor of the 22nd inst, enclosing the transfer drafts therein stated.

Messrs Adams & Co. wish it understood and agreed that they are not to be responsible for the risks of river navigation. I enclose a Copy of their letter to me on the subject. The silver — ($1.000.000) weighs about thirty two tons. The weight and bulk being great, the probability of loss by river navigation is small in view of its recovery from almost any position it might be placed by fire or other Cause. I will be glad to have your instructions on the subject at your earliest Convenience.

I suppose the $100,000 from New Orleans to St. Louis is to be taken at the rates proposed by Messrs Adams & Co. to the Department.

I have the honor to be
with great respect,
Your Obt. Servant
James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie.
Sec. of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States.
Philad^a. Oct. 24. 1853.

Sir,

I have your favor of the 22^d. inst, enclosing the transfer drafts therein stated.

Messrs Adams & Co. with it understood and agreed that they are not to be responsible for the risks of river navigation. I enclose a Copy of their letter to me on the subject. The silver ($1.000.000) weighs about thirty two tons. The weight and bulk being great, the probability of loss by river navigation is small, in view of its recovery from almost any position it might be placed by fire or other cause. I will be glad to have your instructions on the subject at your earliest convenience.

I suppose the $100,000 from New Orleans to St. Louis is to be taken at the rates proposed by Messrs Adams & Co. to the Department.

I have the honor to be
with great respect,
Your obt. servant
James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie,
Sec. of the Treasury

Copy.

Phila, Oct 22nd 1853.

Col James. Ross. Snowden
Director of the U. S. Mint

Sir

At a personal interview, we made you the following offers for the transportation, on account of the United States Government, ~~of~~ of One Million of Dollars in Silver Coin from the Mint in New Orleans to the Mint in Philadelphia viz: four tenths of one per cent to transport without Insurance, and one per cent to transport with Insurance.

You inform us that the Secretary of the Treasury has instructed you to accept our offer of four tenths of one per cent without Insurance. The low rate of freight and the large amount, make it proper that the transaction should be fully understood by both parties.

At the terms of four tenths of one per cent we stipulate that we shall have the privilege of transporting the coin, in first class Steamboats on the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers, from New Orleans to Wheeling or Pittsburg at our option, and that we shall be released by the Secretary of the Treasury from all the risks of River navigation, this being assented to by the Secretary of the Treasury through you, we shall be pleased to undertake the Commission, and trust that we shall be able to perform it to your satisfaction,

Your Obedient Servants
Adams & Co

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Oct. 25. 1853.

Sir,

I received to day a letter from Dr. J. Cobb, who is now at Boston, in which he inquires, "when his duties as Melter & Refiner at New-York will commence, when he should give his official bond, and when his salary commences." I have replied to him that it is expected that the Assay office will be in operation on the 1st of February next, and that he can at once execute his official bond, and that I would inquire of the Department at what time his salary will commence. You will please therefore inform me on this subject.

I have the honor to be
very Respectfully
Your obt. servant,
James Ross Snowden
Director

Hon. James Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Oct. 27. 1853.

Sir,

I have received your favor of the 25th inst. In reply I have the honor to state, that as gold in its natural condition is always accompanied with silver, so it is rare to find silver that is entirely free from gold; the mines of the Pacific Coast of South America affording the only exception that is known to us. With the exception of the Coinage of the South American States we find in the silver Coin of all nations a modicum of gold varying from one-thousandth part (by weight) down to a trace. The average is perhaps one half of one thousandth, judging from very numerous experiments and observations in this Assay office for a long series of years. Some of which I have caused to be repeated since the receipt of your letter with the same results. The one thousandth part of gold would yeild two cents to the ounce of silver;

and the lowest parting price in France and Belgium, where such work is most cheaply done, is somewhat over three cents per ounce. In refining gold however, a large amount of silver coin or bullion is added because the silver is needed in the operation as a material and the modicum of gold is an incidental gain.

It will be perceived however that if our silver coin has been used in the way represented to you, it cannot be to any extent, nor as a commercial operation: because the Mexican and other coin can be bought at 121 cents per ounce whilst our new coin costs 125 cents per ounce. The difference would be a dead loss to the operator.

I have the honor to be
with great respect
Your faithful servant,
James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City.

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Oct. 27, 1853.

Sir,

I enclose a letter from Messrs Maher and Landis to me, to which I have to ask your attention and, if it suits the Convenience of the Department, your approval.

I have the honor to be
your Respectfully
James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City.

Aramingo Chemical Works, Philada Co
October 27th /53

Col. J. R. Snowden, U.S. Mint, Philada

Dear Sir

We have written to Mr. T. W. Riley, the Agent in New-York of Alsop & Co of Valparaiso, to order a first shipment, in two American or British vessels, of Nitrate of Soda, on the terms mentioned in the letter you read to us from the Secretary of the Treasury – We have seen him since in New-York, but have not received yet his reply in writing – you have perhaps ere this heard from him direct in regard to the credit of $ 3000. on the Department?

One difficulty he stated in our conversation about this shipment, namely the great probability that when our order would reach Valparaiso, there might be no stock of Nitrate of Soda in that port, in which case Messrs. Alsop & Co, would have to write immediately to Iquique, the Peruvian port 700 miles North, whence it is exported, to have it brought up to Valparaiso in some schooner; for no large sailing vessel from Valparaiso for San Francisco would be willing to stop on her way for 25 tons; and the time necessary to bring up our order in this way would not fall short of 6 or 7 weeks – Now as the Mail from here to Valparaiso takes 5 weeks, and a sail from Valparaiso to San Francisco 8 or 9 more, the first week in April would probably come round and find us in San Francisco all ready to work but without Nitrate of Soda

It is however in the power of the Secretary of the Treasury to help us again in this matter; The Pacific Mail Steam Ship Co, we understand, are fitting up the steamer San Francisco which has been engaged by the Government to carry her full complement of freight round Cape Horn to San Francisco, leaving New-york on 15th November and stopping at Rio and Valparaiso. Could not our 50 tons Nitrate of Soda be taken on board of that Steamer either at Valparaiso or at Iquique, we paying to Government the $ 15.00 freight per Ton, the present rate to San Francisco from those ports? The Nitrate of Soda would thus be at hand on the 1st February when the Mint is to commence operations.

Mr. Riley informed us also that the sales of this Nitrate are almost always made in Valparaiso or Lima, but the deliveries are effected at the port of Iquique back of which it is made; and large vessels go there for their cargoes of 2, 3 and 400 tons.

Would you have the goodness to make our difficulty known to the Secretary of the Treasury and thus oblige

Yours very truly
Maher & Landis

P.S. Mr. Riley asked also whether Baring & Bro. could not be instructed from Washington to accept Mess. Alsop & Co's draft or drafts to the amount of $ 3000.00, as Bills on England can always be readily negotiated in Valparaiso while buyers for paper on the U.S. are unfrequent?

Mint of the United States.
Philad^a. Oct. 28, 1853.

Sir,

I have received your letter of the 26th inst. I have delivered the transfer draft No. 468 to Messrs. Adams & Co. and agreed that they shall receive 3/4 of one per cent, for freight and insurance. I enclose their receipt.

I think there is yet in this Country a large amount of silver, especially in the South and West; but our future supply from the Atlantic side will be comparatively small. Our silver purchases for the last week or two have increased. For the month of October, including to day, we have received $575.000.– our coinage during same period has been $1.110.000.– Our silver bullion balance in process of coinage is now $1.444.000.– We pay 121 cents an ounce, which when coined is worth 125 per ounce, consequently we have an apparent gain of 4 cents an ounce which is equal to 3.3 per cent.

The Coinage expenses may be estimated at .5 per cent. if the transportation costs is 1. per cent we have a profit of 1.8 per cent. From which it appears that we can if necessary increase our price beyond 1.21 cents per ounce. The price in London by the recent advices is for dolls Spanish, &c (such as we give 1.21 cents) 4. Shillings 11 5/8 pence per oz, which is equal to 1.20^{cts}.9. This being below our price it does not seem necessary to increase ours, as American silver will seek our market rather than go abroad. I am glad to learn that you expect an offer of Mexican dollars to be obtained through New Orleans for the Mint. Perhaps it may be more advantageous to purchase it deliverable here, rather than purchase at New Orleans and afterwards carry it here at the expense of the government.

Whilst I am of opinion that our prices are high enough, still if our supply is inadequate, we can, in view of the marginal profit increase our prices so as to secure any amount we may require.

Our silver Coinage under the new law is $5,600.000.— I presume it will require say, $15,000.000 more to supply the wants of the Country.

I have the honor to be
with great respect,
Your Obt. Servant,
James Ross Snowden
Director,

Hon. James Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City.

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Oct. 28. 1853.

Sir,

I enclose two Communications to me from Prof. Booth, our M. & Refiner on the subject of a German silver coinage for cents.

It is certainly true that the Copper cent is disliked in the Northern and Middle States and not used at all in the Southern and some of the Western States. The employment of a substitute seems desirable if there are not obstacles in the way. The main objections are answered by Mr Booth in his second letter, I think, in a satisfactory manner.

I refer the subject to your consideration, and have the honor to be
With great respect
Your Obt. Servant,
James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City

U. S. Mint
Office of Melter & Refiner

Philada 24 Oct. 1853

J. R. Snowden Esq
Director U.S.M.

Dear Sir

The Secretary of the Treasury having requested me to present my views to him in relation to the employment of an alloy for the Cent-coinage, I herewith offer them to you as the official channel of communication.

The heavy weight of copper coin required to represent a small value renders such coin objectionable, while it is at the same time desirable to possess a coin which shall represent a unit of the Dollar. It appears to me ~~that~~, since no single metal possesses the proper intermediate value between silver & copper, an alloy may be employed of such medium value, which shall also have the desirable properties for coin in wear, sound or ring & appearance.

I have examined various alloys with this object in view, & have concluded that ~~some~~ a composition like that known as German Silver presents a combination of the requisite properties, with this additional advantage that its constituent metals are to be obtained in reliable quantity & of reliable quality

I propose such a proportion of the three metals contained in German silver as shall produce an alloy of a nearly silver-white appearance, which shall be easily coined, shall wear well & poſseſs a good ring when struck.

The supply of Copper & Zinc, metals of ordinary commercial value, is of course unlimited & their price only subject to usual commercial fluctuations. The supply of nickel is more limited, but yet more than sufficient for the purposes to which it is applied, & since it is now found abundantly in various countries, including the United States, its price will only be subject to commercial fluctuation. Its high value, say about two dollars pr. ℔., is due to the chemical methods required to refine it & not to its limited distribution, compared with copper & zinc. Slight impurities in copper & zinc do not materially impair their quality, whereas nickel is rendered almost wholly unfit for use, except it be highly refined. There is therefore every reason to believe that no leſs expensive methods of refining it will be devised, & that therefore its value will differ but little from that above quoted. The price of the alloy proposed will therefore be subject to commercial variations alone.

One objection urged against the use of the alloy proposed is its resemblance to silver. To this it may be replied, that there are imitations of our [illegible] coin made of German Silver, & yet the differing properties of the alloy from silver lead directly to its detection & have prevented its common substitution as a counterfeit. The introduction of such coin would not induce the counterfeiting of silver more than at present, because good qualities of German silver are abundant in the market at present & have been for many years past.

It might be further objected, that, since we propose employing a superior quality of the alloy, an inferior quality might be used illegally to make cent-coin, with profit to the manufacturer. If persons were to make cents of leſs weight but the same quality as we propose, there would be the same opportunity of detection as there is at present with our copper-cent. If they were to substitute an inferior quality of alloy, the gain would be too small to the manufacturer, unleſs a *much* smaller proportion of nickel were employed in the alloy; & in this case, the quality of metal would be visible to the eye & perceptible to the touch. If there were *but little leſs* nickel than we propose, the profit wd be so small that no one wd undertake counterfeiting the cent, unleſs he could throw off a very large number of pieces into circulation. In such case, the counterfeiter would soon be discovered. There is therefore, I apprehend, but little to fear from the substitution of German Silver for Copper in the Cent coinage.

I would go one step further, if such alloy should meet with favour ~~at~~ from the Secy of the Treasy & propose both a one-cent & a two-cent piece. It would thus offer remarkable facilities for making change in the ordinary transactions of daily life, from our having the simple units 1, 2, 3 & 5 cen pieces.

I have the honor to be, dear

yours, with sincere rega

Jas C Booth

From Prof. Booth,
M. & R. to
J. R. Snowden, the
Director of
Mint.
Oct. 24. 1853.

German Silver Coinage.

Ansd
Oct 31/53
By [illegible]

Phil^{a} Oct. 27. 1853

Dear Sir

In addition to the remarks made in my first communication on the subject of a new cent-coinage I offer the following in answer to objections which may be urged against the proposed alloy.

1. It may be objected that, since it is tedious & difficult to analyse German Silver, the manufacturers, supplying the planchets of metal, might impose an inferior alloy upon us without our being aware of it. It is true that the analysis is tedious, & if it were required to analyse every lot sent, the objection would be a serious one, & perhaps insurmountable. But we now never think of analysing the copper planchets for cents, altho' the percentage of ~~copper, &c~~, iron &c. in commercial copper varies from a ½ pr. ct. to several pr. ct. — Besides, samples could be taken from every lot received, precisely as we now take samples of our gold & silver coin, & an average analysis of such samples might be made once or twice a year. No *great* difference could be made in the quality of the metal without its being detected in the external characters of the alloy by mere inspection, or perhaps by a simple test. For *small* differences in quality & consequently small profits for debasing the alloy, no manufacturer would be willing to risk his rep-

utation, & the loſs of busineſs in supplying the planchets. The objection on the ground of difficulty of aſsay is therefore valueleſs.

2. Another objection might be the difficulty of circulating two different coins of the same value, one of which would be preferred; & that thereby the 1700 tons of copper which have been iſsued as cents would be rendered uſeleſs.

Since we still coin copper cents, there is room for more. Besides, *coppers* are not used in the South & S.W., but if a more desirable coin were iſsued, such cents would be used at the South, & both kinds ~~the new ones~~ doubtleſs more at the North. It appears to me probable that the demand for them would be such, that as great a value will have to be iſsued as has already been the case with copper.

Besides, copper might be recalled by the Gov^{t}. I believe this was proposed by the iſsue of the 3-cent coin; & it is a singular fact that if it had been done some 6 months since, it might have been done with profit; for copper sold for 40 cents pr. ℔., while the price ~~fo~~ charged by the mint for cents has been 40½ cts. pr. ℔. It w^{d} therefore have required but a small proportion of the profits on the 3-ct piece to balance the loſs of recall.

Again, if the Gov^{t} wishes to call in the copper coin, it could be gradually effected without further loſs than the profits on the new cent-coin. For the seignorage on the new coin would probably be the same as on the old copper coin; & the same value of copper could be annually called in, as would be issued of the new coin.

I cannot therefore perceive the weight of this objection, when viewed in various lights.

Very truly yours
Jas C Booth
M & R.
U.S.M.

J.R. Snowden Esq.
Director
U. S. Mint

A Statement of Deposites & Coinage

At the Mint of the United States. Philadelphia during the month of Oct. 1853.

Gold Bullion deposited

From California	$ 4,327,000
" Other Sources	125,000
Total	$ 4,452,000

Silver Bullion deposited $ 620,000

Gold Coinage

	Pieces	Value
Double Eagles	40,470	$ 809,400
Eagles	—	—
Half Eagles	23,725	118,625
Quarter Eagles	95,864	239,660
Gold Dollars	582,955	582,955
Total	743,014	$ 1,750,640

In fine Gold Bars. $ 3,515,236,97

Silver Coinage

	Pieces	Value
Half Dollars	636,000	$ 218,000
Quarter Dollars	3,100,000	775,000
Dimes	1,540,000	154,000
Half Dimes	1260,000	63,000
Total No.	6,536,000	[illegible]

Copper

	Pieces	Value
Cents	850,000	$ 8500

Mint of the United States
Phia, Oct. 31st 1853

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia Oct 29th 1853

Sir

I enclose a Statement showing the receipts and payments of Coins during the week ending to day, and showing the denominations of the amount in the Treasury of the Mint.

I have the honor to be,
with great respect
Your Obt Servt
James Ross Snowden
Director

Hon. James Guthrie
Sec, of the Treasury
Washington City

	Oct 24th ℔ Bal on hand Acc		$ 2,895,291.38
	Amts rec'd Oct 24th @ 29th inc		
	Gold		
	Dollars	203,895	
	Gold Bars	1,403,750.81	
	Ye Sweeps	7,978.27	1,615,624.08
	Silver		
	Half Dollars	104,000	
	Quarter Dos	101,000	
	Dimes	91,000	
	½ Dos	24,000	320,000.00
	Total means for week endg Oct 29th		$ 4,830,915.46
	Disbursements		
	Amt Paid Gold Deposits	203,012.89	
	Silver Purchased	251,891.06	
	Assay Gold	35.00	
	" Silver	23.50	454,962.45
	Bal on hand Per Oct 29th		$ 4,375,953.01
	Denominations of Balance		
Gold	Double Eagles	$ 1,385,000	
"	Eagles	265,000	
"	Half Dos	170,000	
"	Quarter Dos	212,540	
"	Dollars	336,980	
"	Gold Bars	1,314,288.84	
"	Remits in Ref	11,255.50	$ 3,695,064.34
Silver	Dollars	$ 12,000	
"	Half Dos	117,900	
"	Quarter Dos	470,600	
"	Dimes	67,900	
"	Half Dos	11,100	
"	Remits in Ref	1,388.67	$ 680,888.67
	Amt of Bal		$ 4,375,953.01

Phila Oct 29, 1853

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia, November 2d, 1853.

Sir,

Mess. Maher & Landis have placed in my hands (in the absence of the Director) the enclosed communication, and respectfully solicit your decision upon the subject therein referred to, in time for the Panama mail leaving New York on the 5th inst.

I have the honor to be
Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
Geo. W. Edelman for the
Director of the Mint.

Hon. James Guthrie,
Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington.

Aramingo Chemical Works November 2d/53

Col J. R. Snowden, U.S. Mint, Philada

Dear Sir

Have you heard from the Secretary of the Treasury in reply to our last of 27th Ult.? our order for Nitrate of Soda to Valparaiso should go by the Panama Mail of 5th Inst Saturday—

Mr. Riley of New-york writes under date of 29th Ult:—"The proposed arrangement for shipping the Nitrate of Soda per Steamer San Francisco will be a good one if it can be effected; for it would be difficult if not impossible to get a vessel to go to Iquique, and if ordered to Valparaiso for reshipment, the order would be attended with considerable uncertainty, as opportunities for shipping it there are not frequent".

We do hope that the Secretary will have been able, for the interest of the Branch Mint at San Francisco, to procure us this freight on board of the Steamer, and in time for us to forward the order by the Mail of 5th Inst

Very truly & Respectfully yours

Maker & Landis

The question is one of time altogether.

Phil^{a} 1 Nov. 1853

Dear Sir,

In reply to the Sec^{y}. letter of 30th Ult. in relation to the seignorage on the cent-coin, I may state, that some 10 to 15 years since the Mint rec^{d} the copper planchets from the manufacturer @ 28 cts. pr. ℔., and returned them coined @ $41\frac{2}{3}$ cts. pr. ℔. making a seignorage of $48\frac{8}{10}$ pr. ct. Latterly the price paid was 30 cts. & the price charged the same as before viz. $41\frac{2}{3}$ cts, making the seignorage $38\frac{8}{10}$ pr. ct. I have as yet no specific proposition to make in relation to the seignorage on the new coin, but I think it might safely be from $33\frac{1}{3}$ to 40 pr. ct.

I am not yet satisfied in regard to the proportions of metal in the proposed alloy, but am in correspondence with manufacturers, & am receiving

occasional samples of different
alloys, which will be tested as to their
adaptation to coinage. I would much
prefer being allowed time for testing
a large number of alloys, in order
that we may exhibit the best to the
public without subsequent alteration.

Very truly yours
Jas C Booth
M & R
U S M

J. R. Snowden Esq
Director
U. S. Mint.

Mint of the United St
Philadelphia, November 2

Sir,

In the absence of the Director for

New alloy for the
Cent Coinage

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia, November 2d, 1853.

Sir,

In the absence of the Director for a few days, I have the honor in reply to your letter to him of the 30th, ulto., to send you the enclosed communication from Professor Booth, on the subject of a new alloy for the cent coinage and the profit or seignorage on the present and the proposed cent coins respectively.

It may be proper to add, that since the close of last winter, the price of copper planchets ruled so high for some time, that scarcely any profit was derived from their coinage. Within a few months, however, the price has fallen considerably, but it is still at a point beyond that reached during a period of at least 20 years previous.

I have the honor to be
Very respectfully
Your faithful Servant,
Geo. W. Edelman for the
Director of the Mint

Hon. James Guthrie,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia, November 3d, 1853.

Sir,

In conformity with the instructions contained in your letter of the 2d. inst., I have delivered to Mess Adams & Co as per the enclosed receipt, One hundred thousand dollars for the Treasurer of the United States at Washington, in payment of Treasury transfer draft No. 481, in his favor, drawn upon the Asst. Treasurer of the United States at Philadelphia.
The supply of ½ dimes having been exhausted for the present, I send dimes in their place.

I have the honor to be
Very respectfully
Your faithful servant,
James Ross Snowden,
Director of the Mint.
pr. Geo. W. Edelman.

Hon. James Guthrie,
Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington.

Mint of the United States
Phil. Nov 5th 1853.

Sir,

I enclose a Statement showing the receipts and payments of coins during the week ending to day, and showing the denominations of the amount in the Treasury of the Mint,

I have the honor to be
with great respect
Your Obedient Servt
James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon James Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City

Oct 31st Bal on hand (See last statement)		$ 4.375,953.01
Amts recd from Oct 31st to Nov 5th in		
Gold		
Half Eagles	$ 118,625	
Quarter Do	185,120	
Gold Bars	329,679.50	633,424.50
Silver		
Dollars	$ 9,865.	
Half Do	86.000	
Quarter Do	91.000	
Dimes	56.000	
1/2 Do	7.000	249,865.00
Total means for week end'g Nov 5th		$ 5.259,242.51

Disbursements for Oct 31st to Nov 5th

Amt Paid Gold Warrants	$ 1,717,227,05	
" " Silver Purchases	104,459,98	
" recd for assay Gold	85,00	
" " " " Silver	17.00	
" Transferred to Ordinary a/c	10.000.00	$ 1.831.789.03
Bal on hand P.M. Nov 5th		$ 3.427.453.48

Denominations of Balance

Gold	Double Eagles	$ 1.325.000	
"	Eagles	265.000	
"	Half Do	260.000	
"	Quarter Do	287.660	
"	Dollars	305.573	
"	Bars	290,465.73	
"	Cents in Repts	10.962.50	$ 2.744,661.23
Silver	Dollars	$ 9,736.	
"	Half Do	141,000	
"	Quarter Do	452.300	
"	Dimes	75.400	
"	Half Do	3,300	
"	Cents in Rept &c	1,056.25	682,792.25
	Amt of Bal	——	$ 3.427.453.48

Phila Nov 5th/53

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Nov. 7. 1853.

Sir,

The arrangement you propose in your letter of the 30th ulto. in regard to the workmen to be sent to California is entirely satisfactory. The travelling expenses for the men, may be put at $100., each.

I have to request that the funds mentioned in my letter of the 26th ulto. be supplied me.

It would seem proper that a few men from the Coining Department should also be sent to San Francisco. If you think so also, I can make the same arrangement with them as for the Melting and Refining Department. Five or six men from the Coining department will be sufficient.

I have the honor to be
with great respect,
Your faithful servant,
James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie.
Sec. of the Treasury.
Washington City.

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Nov. 7. 1853.

Sir,

The arrangement you propose in your letter of the 30th. ulto. in regard to the workmen to be sent to California is entirely satisfactory. The travelling expenses for the men, may be put at $100., each.

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I have the honor to be
with great respect,
Your faithful servant,
James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie.
Sec. of the Treasury.
Washington City.

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Nov. 8. 1853.

Sir,

The letters of the 1st Auditor and Comptroller which you have referred to me for answer have been received. The excess of Silver Bullion at the Branch Mints at Dahlonega and Charlotte may properly be transferred to this Mint for Coinage. A similar transaction took place in Oct. 1850 in relation to the Charlotte Branch. At that time it was sent by stage to Camden and thence by Railroad to Charleston and from thence shipped to this City. I am unable to indicate which would be the better mode of sending it here, perhaps a discretion might be given to the Superintendents of those Mints to adopt the cheapest mode consistent with its safe carriage. The amounts not being large they may readily be transferred. I am about to make regulations by which the silver parted for the benefit of depositors shall hereafter be paid in gold coin, paying them at the rate of 1.21 cents per oz. and twice for silver; we will thus avoid the necessity of returning the silver coins to these mints, and the proceeds of the silver Bullion they send may be passed to the credit of the Branch Mints here and used as a fund to supply them with materials &c. This was the arrangement adopted in 1850, I mean so much of it, as relates to the proceeds of the bullion sent.

I have the honor to be
with great respect
Your faithful Servant,
James Ross Snowden
Director

Hon. James Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City

Mint of the United States
Phila. Nov. 9. 1853

Sir,

In my letter of the 4th of August last I submitted to your consideration some designs prepared by the Engraver for the 3 dollar gold Coin, authorized by the Act of Feb. 21. 1853. Sect. 7. Not having heard from you on the subject and supposing that it may have escaped your attention, I beg leave to recall it to your notice.

I have the honor to be
With great respect,
Your faithful Servant,

James Ross Snowden
Director

Hon. James Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Nov. 9. 1853.

Sir,

My attention for some months past has been called to the fact that one of the greatest hindrances to our furnishing the Country with a wholesome and abundant silver currency of our own stamp, is the existence of a large quantity of worn-out Spanish Coin which are worth much less than their current value. During a recent visit to Pittsburgh I noticed how largely these depreciated coins entered into the circulation. From data obtained by circular letters a few years ago it was rendered pretty certain that the amount of quarters, levies and fips in circulation in the United States was about 5 millions of dollars. I should estimate the amount now in circulation at about that sum. For the purpose of bringing this miserable circulation to the melting-pot I recommend that a larger price per ounce be paid than is paid for larger coin and other bullion. In connexion with an increase of price it would be of great service if we had the aid of the Post Office Department, either through its head or through the agency of the Post Masters of the principal Cities. It is only a few years since that these Coins were taken at the City Post Office by fixed regulations, at 23, 11. and 5. cents respectively, and it was only the scarcity of our own silver change that restored them to their original nominal valuation. If they were discredited to the amounts above stated and an offer made to pay 1.23 or 1.24 cents per ounce, we would have a fair prospect of ridding the Country of a depreciated and troublesome Currency, which would be supplied by our own quarters, dimes and half dimes ~~which are~~ now rapidly springing from the Mints. If you sanction this suggestion and authorise me to increase the price for these fractional parts of a dollar I will make further investigations and ascertain whether we can go as high as 1.24 cents per oz. which leaves only a margin of one cent per oz to cover the expense of Coinage. But as the object in view is to accomplish a great public benefit, it may well be considered whether we may not properly go very nearly to the margin which the new silver Coin yields.

I have the honor to be,
with great respect,
Your faithful servant,
James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie,
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City.

U. S. Mint Philadelphia
Treasurer's Office, November 10th., 1853

Sir

Your letter of yesterday came to hand this morning. The U. S. Bullion Acct. was last forwarded to the Treasury department on the 12 April last – since then until the close of the last Quarter no change occurred in the acct. and consequently no statement of its condition was deemed necessary until the usual period arrived for transmitting the quarterly a/cs. to Washington.

Herewith you will please find the acct. desired, and care will be taken hereafter to keep you properly advised of its condition.

Very Respy Yours

Treasr U. S. Mint
Philada

Hon. James Guthrie
Secy Treasy U. S.
Washington, D.C.

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Nov. 10. 1853.

Sir,

I am preparing the statements asked for in your favor of the 7th inst and hope to send them to day.

I acknowledge also the receipt of your letter of yesterday stating that a warrant will be issued to meet certain expenses for the Branch Mint at San Francisco – and authorising me to send five workmen from the Coining Department to that Mint.

I will take immediate measures to cause the transfer of the surplus silver from the Dahlonega and Charlotte Branches, and ~~issue~~ give the proper instructions to their respective Superintendents.

I have the honor to be
with great respect
your faithful servant.
James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City.

Mint of the United States
Philada. Nov. 10. 1853

Sir,

In compliance with your letter of the 7th inst. I have prepared statements showing the operations of the Mint and its Branches for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1853, and for the Quarter ended September 30 1853. To which I have added a Statement showing the amount of Coinage at the Philadelphia Mint from the 1st of January 1853 to the 31st of October 1853, being ten months of the present year.

I have the honor to be
with great respect,
Your faithful Servant,
James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie.
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City.

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Nov. 11. 1853.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of yesterday, I have to state that your letter of the 30th. ulto. reached here during my brief absence at Pittsburgh. I regret that my attention was not called to it until I received your last letter.

In my letter of the 28th. ulto. I presented my views in reference to the supply of silver — the price of it at the London market (which in this respect regulates the price every where) - and the profits on the coinage at our price of 1.21. cents per ounce. The statement I then made of the price of silver in the London market was based upon a quotation of 59 5/8 pence per ounce for dollar-silver, which is about the average rate upon an extended period. The last arrival from Liverpool noticed in to-day's papers does not state the price, but the fluctuation of a week or month is hardly suitable to base a calculation upon. At that rate it was shown that the British were in effect giving about the same price (in gold) that we are, namely 1.20.9 cents per ounce. The quotation stated by Mr Aspinwall, in the extract you send me, of $60\frac{1}{8}$ pence would extend it to 1.22 cents. If "the close calculation of actual expenses" would bring this to "$1.24\frac{63}{100}$ at the Mint in Philada" it must be because his plan of operations is to bring the silver from London, or else, that it costs considerably more to carry it from Mexico to the United States than from Mexico to England, which I can hardly think is so, although it may be true, since it costs more to carry gold from San Francisco to New York than from San Francisco to London. It is very evident however that we cannot import silver at the price he states unless we conclude to give up nearly the entire seignorage. It would seem to be the better policy to try the effect of enlarging our price to 1.22 ~~to~~ possibly to 1.23 cents, which would ensure a sufficient supply to the Mints without any definite agency or contract.

The million of dollars from New Orleans, in addition to the amount on hand and what is coming in under our present prices, will be sufficient for 2 or 3 months, and the amount will be considerably increased if my recommendation as to the withdrawal of the Spanish quarters, eighths and sixteenths is approved, and we can afterwards determine if it is necessary to increase our prices.

In answer to the second branch of your letter respecting the transfer of a million of dollars from New Orleans to this Mint, I present the following statement.

One million of silver dollars old standard value $1,074,218.75

~~But~~ we give 1.21 cents per ounce and

it therefore costs us $ 1,039,843.75

Add costs of transportation 10,000.00

" " Coinage 5,000.00 1,054,843.75

The gain upon the transaction on re-coinage is $19,375.00

I have the honor to be
with great respect,
Your faithful servant,
James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie.
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City.

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Nov. 11. 1853.

Sir,

I have your letter of yesterday approving of the obverse marked A. and Reverse marked B. for the 3 gold Coin.

I have instructed the Engraver to have dies prepared for the new Coin as soon as practicable.

I have the honor to be
with great respect
your faithful servant,
James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City.

Mint of the United States.
Phila. Nov. 12. 1853.

Sir,

I have received from the Treasurer of the U. States a Treasury Warrant for $3450.00 as stated in your letter of the 9th inst, the proceeds of which will be applied to the expenses of the San Francisco Branch Mint, and paying the expenses of workmen to be sent there.

I have the honor to be
with great respect,
Your Obt Servant,
James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie.
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City.

Mint of the United States
Philada. Nov. 12. 1853.

Sir,

I have your favor of the 10th inst and acquiesce in the opinion expressed that until our supply of silver Coin is increased, it is perhaps unadvisable to adopt measures to withdraw the small Spanish Coin from circulation. When our Coinage has increased I will recall your attention to the subject.

I presume that part of your letter which asks for reports of the operations of the Branch Mint at New Orleans is answered in part by my letter of the 10th inst in which I present full statements in regard to all the Mints. But in addition I now enclose a statement which includes the month of October last. The gold ~~receipts and~~ Coinage for New Orleans is not included inasmuch as I have not yet received the Superintendents report as to gold. When it is received I will send it to you.

I have the honor to be
your faithful servant,
James Ross Snowden
Director

Hon. James Guthrie. Sec. of Treas.

Mint of the U States
Philad Nov 12, 1853.

Hon James Guthrie
Sec of the Treasury

Sir

By order of the Director I send you the enclosed statement

Very Resp'y
Your obt svt
Geo G Dellekar
Paying Clerk

161

Statement of the Denominations of Coins on hand at the U S Mint - Pha Nov 12th 1853

Gold		
Double Eagles	$ 1,440.000	
Eagles	240.000	
Half Eagles	260,000	
Quarter Do	279,660	
Dollars	331,244	
Bars	171,003,09	
Remnants &c	14,200.00	$ 2.736,107,09
Silver		
Dollars	$ 7,215,	
Half Dos	59,500,	
Quarter Dos	458,200	
Dimes	63,300	
Half Dos	14,800	
Remnants &c	345,92	603,360.92
Total Amt of Bal on hand Pr Nov 12th		$ 3.339,468.01

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Nov. 15, 1853.

Sir,

Your favor of the 13th inst is received. I have had an interview with Mr. Sandford of the firm of Messrs Adams & Co. He says they will undertake to transport and insure the delivery of the bullion at the rate stated by you. But he desires that one of their firm may have the pleasure of a personal interview with you on the subject. I may add that there is no firm of Harden & Co. - there is an express called "Harnden's Express," but it is owned by Livingston & Co.

The silver coinage at New Orleans is not as large as we have reason to expect, but the dreadful epidemic which prevailed in that City I believe has had some effect upon that result. I have heretofore instructed the Superintendent to use every exertion to increase the coinage and will renew the instructions with the request to work extra hours as far as it may be practicable.

I received to day the report of the gold coinage at New Orleans for October (silver coinage was stated by me in a previous letter)

		No. of pieces.	value
Gold	— Eagles	8,000 –	$80,000.00

I have the honor to be
with great respect,
Your faithful servt,
James Ross Snowden
Director

Hon. James Guthrie,
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City

Mint of the United States
Philada. Nov. 15. 1853.

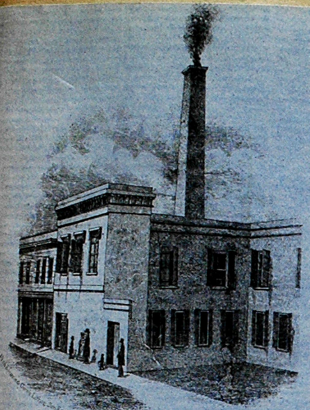
Sir,

I find it necessary to propose a change in the mode of paying for silver parted from gold deposites. By an arrangement adopted in April last and continued to the present time, payments for such silver have been made in silver dollars of the old standard weight viz 412½ grains. When received in the paying room they are generally carried into the weigh room and purchased at the price of 1.21 cents per ounce. I propose to make one transaction of it and include the value of the silver parted from the gold in the gold warrants at the market price. This will relieve us from some inconvenience and unnecessary clerical labor. Besides, a portion of the silver dollars thus heretofore paid out are carried away and melted and used for manufacturing and other purposes. My attention has more immediately been called to the subject from the fact that our supply of these dollars is nearly exhausted and if the system is unaltered I will have to cause a quantity of them to be coined we will then have to produce Coin which cannot circulate and must be used as an article of merchandize. You are aware that the new silver Coinage law does not embrace our unit – the dollar. But the proposed change seems further to be desirable as we will thus avoid the necessity and expense of supplying the Branch Mints at Charlotte and Dahlonega with silver dollars to pay their gold depositors; and as these Mints do not coin silver, they must either be melted down or seek some distant market.

By a calculation sufficiently accurate the difference between the value of the silver dollar and our purchasing price of silver is 4 per cent. I therefore propose with your approval to pay 4 per cent. premium for the silver parted from gold deposits and cause the depositor to be paid therefor in gold coin with ~~the~~ proceeds of his gold deposits. We will thus be relieved from paying silver dollars and purchasing them back again; of the labor and expense of ~~pay~~ coining silver dollars – part of which goes with the hands of manufacturers—; and from the expense of sending silver dollars to such of the Branch Mints as do not coin silver. In this arrangement no injustice will be done the depositor. His deposit is gold; but we pay him the full value of the silver which the processes of the mint have separated from his gold.

I have the honor to be
with great respect
Your faithful servant,
James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City.



UNITED STATES ASSAY OFFICE,
COMMERCIAL STREET,
CURTIS, PERRY & WARD.

San Francisco Cal. Nov. 15. 1853

Sir —

We have the honour to send herewith our Report for the month of October last in Conformity with instructions, & to inform you, that on the 1st. Nov. inst we discontinued operations under our contract with the Department for smelting & assaying gold in Cal. in compliance with the notice to that effect, published by order of the Department —

Respectfully
Your Obt Servts
Curtis Perry & Ward

Hon. James Guthrie
Secretary U.S. Treasury
Washington

San Francisco
Nov 15 1853

Assay office
discontinued 1 Nov/53

Reports for Jany /53
to 31 Octo /53

Reports
Aug
Sep } 1853 -
Octo } Agus Koehler
left with Mr McLean

Returned & filed

Mr Peters
File

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Nov. 17. 1853.

Sir,

On receiving your letter of yesterday I addressed a note to Messrs. Livingston & Co. ("Harnden's Express") and received a reply that the manner in which they would bring the silver from New Orleans would be by sea to New York and from thence here by the Camden & Amboy Railroad. In accordance therefore with your instructions I have employed Messrs. Adams & Co. as our agents to bring it to the Mint. A copy of their receipt and engagement I enclose to you. Independent of the fact that a carriage by the rivers is at less risk than by sea, and therefore to be preferred, I may state that the ability of Messrs. Adams & Co. to respond to any loss is greater than that of Messrs. Livingston & Co. An outside insurance ~~to~~ might to some extent reduce the inequality, but in such a large transaction the stronger house is to be preferred.

In reference to an increase of silver coinage at New Orleans I have to observe that I have asked the Superintendent to give me his views on the subject,— When I hear from him I will write to him on the subject of an increase of workmen. I hope we shall be able to increase the coinage at that point.

I have the honor to be
with great respect
Your faithful servant,
James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie.
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City.

Received Philadelphia November 17th 1853 of the Treasurer of the U. S. Mint Philadelphia Transfer Draft No. 467 drawn on the Treasurer of the Branch Mint New Orleans. for One Million of Dollars. (Say $1,000,000.) which we agree to collect and deliver the proceeds at the U. S. Mint Philadelphia

Original

We agree to transport and insure against all risks the above named amount, by the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers to either Wheeling Va. or Pittsburg Pa. and from thence to Philadelphia. for the Sum of Ten Thousand Dollars. (Say $10,000.00) under an arrangement entered into this day and approved by the Director of the U. S. Mints. Payment for freight and insurance to be made by the U. S. Treasury Department

Adams & Co

The above mentioned Transfer Drafts is payable in Silver Bullion

A & Co

Approved. J. R. Snowden,
Director.

Mint U States
Philad Nov 19. 1853

Hon James Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasy

Sir

By order of the Director I send you the enclosed statement

Very Respy
Your obt Servt
Geo. G. Delleker
Paying Clk

Denominations of Balance on hand at the U S Mint Phila Nov 19th 1853.

Gold		
Double Eagles	$ 423,000	
Eagles	70,000	
Half do	90,000	
Quarter do	179,660	
Dollars	272,124	
Bars	376,613.72	
Remnts &c	7,316.50	$ 1,418,714.22
Silver		
Dollars	$ 370.	
Half do	34,047	
Quarter do	442,300	
Dimes	132,950	
Half do	43,050	
Remnts &c	165.98	652,882.98
Total amt of Bal on hand Phila Nov 19th/53		$ 2,071,597.20

Mint of the United States.
Phil^a. Nov. 19. 1853.

Sir,

According to previous arrangements, the workman, Mr. James M. Funk, who is to put up the refining apparatus sails to day in the "George Law" from New York.

In view of the great advance in the rates of charges, since I wrote you that perhaps $100. each would be sufficient, I advanced to him $185. [illegible]. He would have been unable to go, unless I gave him that sum.

The rest of the men are to go on the 20th of December and unless the prices ~~recede~~ recede somewhat it will be necessary to pay them more than was originally contemplated. I have to ask your sanction to a reasonable advance, which may be covered by a Treasury Warrant when the transaction is completed.

I have the honor to be
with great respect,
Your faithful servant,
James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie.
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City.

Mint of the United States
Philada. Nov. 21. 1853.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 19th inst. I enclose a statement of the amount of gold of domestic production deposited at the Mint and its Branches from Jan. 1st to Sept. 30. 1853. It exhibits the amount received from each of the gold-producing States.

I have the honor to be,
with great respect,
your faithful servant,
James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie.
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City.

Statement of the amount of Gold Deposits of domestic production, At the Mint of the United States and its Branches from Jan, 1st to Sept. 30th 1853,

Deposits,	Mints,				
From Whence derived,	Charlotte,	Dahlonega,	New Orleans,	Philadelphia,	Total,
California,	$15,464,88	$269.617.78	$1.414.429.93	$40.405,704,07	$42.105.216,16
S. Carolina,	59.147.57	22.415,80	–	3,522,00	85,085,37
N. Carolina,	161,467.77	1,231.49	–	22,746,91	185,446.17
Virginia,	–	–	–	31,730,27	31,730,27
Oregon,	–	–	–	1.642.00	1,642,00
New Mexico,	–	–	–	3,552,00	3,552.00
Georgia,	–	18,293.74	–	–	18.293.74
Tennessee,	–	148.82	–	–	148.82
Total	$236,080.22	$311.707.63	$1,414.429.93	$40,468,897.25	$42,431,115,03

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia Sept. 30th 1853,
James Ross Snowden
Director.

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Nov. 22. 1853.

Sir,

The Act of Congreſs hereinafter cited requires the profits of the Mint to be paid into the Treasury of the United States. For your information I enclose a Statement of the Profits on the Coinage and Silver purchases at the Philada. Mint transferable to the Treasury of the United States. I have had it rapidly prepared and it may not be precisely accurate, but it is sufficiently so for the purpose in view. At the end of the current fiscal year I will present an accurate statement and cause the amount of profits to be transfered to the Treasury of the United States. I may be able to present such a statement at the end of the current annual year. The law under which these transfers are required to be made is very imperfect in its phraseology; it reads as follows; "And it shall be the duty of the Superintendent of the Mint to cause to be paid annually into the Treasury of the United States the profits of the Mint." Act of March 4. 1853. c. 97. (Mint laws p. 62.) There is no such officer as "the Superintendent of the Mint." But I suppose it is proper to make the word Superintendent read, Director, and that ~~by~~ "Mint" was intended also to embrace the Branches. I have therefore directed that an account of the profits shall be kept at the Mint and the Branch Mints and have instructed the Superintendents of the latter to transfer their profits to the Treasury of the United States at the end of the current fiscal year.

In the absence of special reports on this subject from the Superintendents of the Branch Mints, but taking their report of their coinage to the 1st of November and making an estimate for the current month, the profits of the Mint and its Branches, may be stated as follows.

Mint at Philada. from April 1st to Nov. 21. 1853	$252,993.4
Branch at N.O. " " "	33,820.4
" Charlotte "	1,188.4
" Dahlonega "	1,540.4
Total estimated profits.	$289,541.4

I have the honor to be,
With great respect,
Your faithful Servant
James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City

Statement of Profits on Coinage and on Silver Purchases, transferable to the Treasury of the United States, from the Mint at Philadelphia.

Total Silver Coinage from January 1st. to Nov. 21st. 1853, ...	$6,723,311.
(Deduct Silver Coinage of the 1st. Quarter 1853, being prior to the act relating to the purchase of Silver	369,300.
	$ 6,354,011.

Total Silver Purchases from April 1 to Nov 19/53.	$ 7,409,244.09
The cost of the portion coined as above at 121 cents per ounce amounts to	6,150,682.65
Cost of the portion remaining uncoined	$ 1,258,561.44

Profits on the portion coined as above viz. on $ 6.354,011 (exclusive of wastage in the operation)	$ 193,328.35
Profits on the uncoined portion	41,486.24
Total profits	$ 234,814.59
on the above purchases of	$ 7,409,244.09

Note. The earnings on the Silver purchases to Nov. 19/53 are charged with the cost on the entire purchases and therefore reduce the apparent profits $ 48,335. This amt. will be recovered when the Silver ($ 1,258,561.44) shall be coined and also the additional amount of $ 41,486.24, which constitute the profits as above stated, will then be recovered.

Apparent profits above named,		$ 193,328.35
from which deduct the above cost on the uncoined portion		48,335.00
Shewing the amt. of transferable profits on Silver purchs.		$144,993.35
To which add ½ % for coinage of gold depts.	$ 97,300.–	
½ % " " Silver "	1,200.–	108,000.00
Silver parted for the benefit of the Mint	10,000.–	
		$ 252,993.35

Mint of the U. States, Philada. Nov. 22d. 1853.

Mint of the United States
Philada. Nov. 22. 1853

Sir,

I have your letter of yesterday. The statement asked for is in course of preparation, & I hope to be able to send it to you tomorrow.

I have the honor to be
with great respect
Your faithful servant,
James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City

Mint of the United States.
Philad.ª Nov. 23. 1853.

Dear Sir,

I notice in the "Union" of yesterday a statement of ~~gold~~ "Silver deposites and Coinage at Phil.ª and New Orleans", which is so erroneous that I have prepared an exact statement on the subject. The information you have already received from me but not in the form now prepared. I therefore send it to you and also a copy which if you think it of sufficient importance you may send to the Editor of the Union for publication. Erroneous statements often appear in the papers unnoticed by me; but when they originate in newspapers at the seat of government, especially in a paper of the standing and character which "The Daily Union" possesses, perhaps it is proper to make the correction.

I have the honor to be
yours faithfully & truly
James Ross Snowden.

J. Guthrie,
Sec. of the Treas. Washington City.

Statement of the Silver Purchases, Deposites and Coinage at the U. S. Mint Philad^a and the U. S. Branch Mint at New Orleans dating from the Operation of the New Law relating to Silver to wit, from the 1st of April to the 1st Nov^r 1853.

Silver Purchases at the U. S. Mint, Philad. from April 1st to Sep. 30	6,565,744.28
. Coinage	4,459,011.00
. Deposites & Purchases at the Branch Mint, New Orleans from April 1st to Sep. 30, 1853.	3,466,336.26
. Coinage from . . at Brch. Mint N.O.	800,000.00
Silver deposites & Purchases at U. S. Mint, Philad: during Sep: 1853	1,808,426.27
. . Brch. . N. Orleans .	2,304,597.90
. . at U. S. Mint Philad: in October 1853	648,513.24
. Coinage . . .	1,210,000.00
. Deposites & Purchases at the Brch. . N. Orleans .	334,165.26
. Coinage . . .	200,000.00

Mint of the U. States.
Phil^a Nov. 23. 1853.
James Ross Snowd
Director

Statement of the Silver Purchases, deposites and Coinage at the U. S. Mint, Philad.ª and the U. S. Branch Mint at New Orleans dating from the operation of the New Law relating to Silver, to wit, from the 1st. of April to the 1st. Nov.r 1853.

Silver Purchases at the U. S. Mint, Philad: from April 1st. to Sep: 30	6,565,744.23
" Coinage " " " "	4,489,011.00
	———
" deposites & Purchases at the Branch Mint New Orleans from April 1st. to Sep: 30, 1853.	3,466,335.26
" Coinage from " " at Brch: mint N.O.	800,000.00
	———
Silver deposites & Purchases at U. S. Mint, Philad: during 3d qr: 1853	1,808,426.20
" " " Brch: " N.Orleans "	2,304,597.93
	———
" " at U. S. Mint Philad: in October 1853	648,543.24
" Coinage " " "	1,210,000.00
	———
" deposites & Purchases at the Brch: " N.Orleans "	384,468.26
" Coinage " " "	220,000.00
	———

Mint of the United States
Phil.ª Nov: 23. 1853.

James Ross Snowden
Director.

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Nov. 17. 1853.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of yesterday I enclose a statement of the gold and silver Coinage at the Mint and its Branches from the 1st of January to the 30th of Sept. 1853.

I have the honor to be
with great respect
Your Obt. Servant,
James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie.
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City.

Statement of the COINAGE, at the United States Mint & its Branches from January 1st: to Sept: 30, 1853.

GOLD.						
Double Eagles,	Pieces,	. . .	. . .	73,000.	1,168,785.	1,241,785.
Eagles,	"	. . .	. . .	9,000.	166,190.	175,190.
Half Eagles,	"	44,897.	65,843.	. . .	4,989.	115,729.
Quarter Eagles,	"	. . .	2,456.	. . .	1,100,068.	1,102,524.
Dollars,	"	11,515.	6,583.	290,000.	2,896,186.	3,204,284.
					8,434,419.63	Fine Gold Bars:
Value of Gold,	Dolls.	236,000.00	341,938.00	1,940,000.00	39,143,320.63	41,661,258.63
SILVER.						
Dollars,	Pieces,	. . .	. . .	. . .	39,000.	39,000.
Half Dollars,	"	. . .	. . .	908,000.	2,288,008.	3,196,008.
Quarter Dollars,	"	. . .	. . .	892,000.	10,534,000	11,426,000.
Dimes,	"	. . .	. . .	930,000.	4,035,010.	4,965,010.
Half Dimes,	"	. . .	. . .	760,000.	3,925,020.	4,685,020.
					11,400,000	3 ct. pieces.
Value of Silver,	Dolls.	. . .	. . .	$808,000.00	$4,758,255.00	$5,566,255.00

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Nov. 23. 1853

Sir

In compliance with your letter of the 21st inst I enclose the following statements, viz:

No. 1. Statement of amount of gold of domestic production deposited at the Mint of the United States, Philadelphia, to the 31st October 1853.

No. 2. A similar statement of the amount deposited at the Branch Mints.

No. 3. A summary exhibit of the entire deposits of domestic gold at the Mint and Branches to the 31st October 1853.

No. 4. A statement of silver of domestic production deposited at the Mint of the United States and its Branches from January 1st 1841 to October 31st 1853.

I have the honor to be
with great respect
Your faithful obt Servt.
James Ross Snowden
Director

J. R. Snowden
Director U.S. Mint.
Nov. 23, 1853

No. 1.

Mint of the United States.

Statement of the Amount of Gold of Domestic Production deposited at the Mint of the U. S. Philadelphia to Oct. 31st 1853

Periods	Virginia	N. Carolina	S. Carolina	Georgia	Tennessee	Alabama	N. Mexico	California	Various Sources	Totals.
4 to 1827		110,000								110,000
8 „ 1837	427,000	2.519,500	327,500	1,763,900	12,400					5,063,000
38 „ 1847	518,294	1,303,636	152,366	566,316	16,499	45,493			13,200	2,623,641
1848	57,886	109,034	19,228	3,370	3,497	3670	682	44,177	21,037	241,544
1849	129,382	102,688	4,309	10,525	2,739	2,977	32,889	5,481,439		5,767,092
1850	65,991	43,734	759	5,114	307	1,178	5392	31,667,505	144	31,790,306
1851	69052	49,440	12,338	2,490	126	817	890	46,939,367	326	47,074,520
1852	83,625.65	65,248.	4,505	3,420		253	814	49,663,622		49,821,487
3 to Oct 31.	35,418.56.	37,364	3,522				3,522	44,817,401	6,855	44,904,092
Totals.	1,386,648	4,340,644.	524,527.	2,355,135	35,568.	54,388	44,199	178,613,511	41,562	187,396,182

Nº 2.

Statement of the Amount of Gold of Domestic Productions deposited at the Branch Mints to October 31st 1853.

Branch Mint at New Orleans.

riods	Virginia	N. Carolina	S. Carolina	Georgia	Tennessee	Alabama	N. Mexico	California	Various Sources	Totals.
38 to 1847		741	14.306	37.364	1.772	61,903			3.613	119,699
1848			1.488	2,317	947	6,717		1.124		12,593
1849			423			4,062		669,921	2,783	677,189
1850						3,560		4,575,567	894	4,580,021
1851						1.040		8,769,682		8,770,722
1852								3,777,784		3,777,784
3d to Oct 31.								1.514.635		1.514.635
otals		$ 741	16,217	39,681	2,719	77,282		19,308,713	7,290	19,452,643

Branch Mint at Dahlonega, Geo:

38 to 1847		64,351	95,427	2,978,353	32,175	47,711				3,218,017
1848		5,434	8,151	251,376	2,717	4075				271,753
1849		4.882	7.323	225,824	2441	3,661				244.131
1850		4.500	5,700	1200	204,473	1800		30.025		247,698
1851		1.971	3.236	154,723	2.251	2,105		214,072	951	379,309
1852		443	37,542	93,122	750			324,931		476,788
3d to Oct 31.		1,378	26,849	29,169	148			284,050		341,594
otals.		$ 82,959	204.228	3,733,767	244,955	59,352		853,078,	951	5,179,290

Statement of the Amount of Gold of Domestic Production deposited at the Branch Mints to October 31st 1853. continued.

Branch Mint at Charlotte, S.C.

eriods	Virginia	N. Carolina	S Carolina	Georgia	Tenneſsee	Alabama	N. Mexico	California	Various Sources	Total.
38 to 1847		1,529,777	143,941							1,673,718
1848		359,075	11,710							370,785
1849		378,223	12,509							390,732
1850		307,289	13,000							320,289
1851		275,472	25,478					15,111		316,061
1852		337,603	64.934					28361		430,898
53 to Oct 31		205,827	60,918.					15464		282,309
otals		$3,393,266	332,490					58,936		$3,784,792

Nº 3.

Summary Exhibit of the Entire deposites of Domestic Gold, at the Mint and Branches to the 31st October 1853

Mints	Virginia	N. Carolina	S. Carolina	Georgia	Tenneſsee	Alabama	N. Mexico	California	Other Sources	Totals
hiladelphia	1,386,648	4,340,644	524,527	2,355,135	35,568	54,388	44.199.	178,613.511	41,562	187,396,182
ew Orleans		741	16,217	39681	2,719	77.282		19,308,713	7.290	19,452,643
harlotte		3,393,266	332,490					58,936		3.784.792
ahlonega		82.959	204.228	3.733.767	244,955	59.352		853,078.	951	5,179.290
regates	1.386.648.	7,817,610	1,077,462	6,128,583	283,242	191,022	44.199	198,834.239	49,803.	215,812,807

No. 4

Statement of Silver of domestic production deposited at the United States Mint and its Branches from January 1st. 1841 to October 31. 1853.

Year	Value	
1841.	$ 4,300.–	
1842.	6,455.–	
1843.	8,640.–	
1844.	30,847.–	
1845.	4,769.–	
1846.	3,066.–	
1847.	6,407.–	
1848.	6,191.–	
1849.	39,112.–	
1850.	269,253.–	
1851.	389,471.–	
1852.	404,494.–	
to Octo. 31st., 1853.	335,807.	Total $1,508,812.

Of the above there was received from North Carolina
up to 1852 inclusive, about $ 44,000.–
and from Lake Superior. 3,277.–
the balance was parted from California & other U. States gold.

Note.– There is no record in the Mint of any Silver of domestic production having been recd. for coinage, prior to 1841.

Mint of the U. States, Philada. November 23d. 1853.

James Ross Snowden,
Director.

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Nov. 23. 1853.

Sir,

In my letter of the 29th of October last transmitting estimates of appropriation required for the Mint and its Branches I stated that I would write to you on the subject of the estimate for the New Orleans Branch as soon as I heard from its Superintendent. I received to-day the Superintendent's reply to my letter to him; a copy of which I enclose to you. Concurring in the views he presents I do not recommend any change in the estimates.

I have the honor to be
with great respect
Your Ob. servant,
James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City.

(Copy.)

U.S. Br. Mint New Orleans
Nov. 15, 1853

Sir,

I have your letter of the 7th inst. Your orders shall be complied with.

I hand herewith revised estimates & specifications of appropriations, required for the Ordinary Expenses of this Br. Mint, for the fiscal year ending 30 June, 1855.

The estimates have been revised upon the basis of an annual coinage of five millions of dollars, as you have directed. The rapidity with which silver is now coming in, together with the increase of gold deposits which were very limited during the prevalence of the epidemic this summer, leads me to believe that our first estimate is the most correct, & might perhaps be found too small even. If we should have erred, & made the estimates too large, the inconvenience arising from this circumstance would not be as great by far as if they had fallen below our actual want, since any balance remaining at the end of the fiscal year, can easily be returned to the Treasury, whereas a deficiency could not be supplied by any power except Congress. Great inconveniences, arising from the want of sufficient appropriation, have occasionally been felt here; indeed such was the scarcity of means in 1850, that for about four months our workmen could not be paid a dollar.

Please find also enclosed the statement of the condition of this Branch Mint at the close of the week ending 12 November 1853.

Very respectfully
Your obt. servt.,
(Signed) Chs. Bienvenu
Supt.

James R. Snowden, Esq.,
Director U.S. Mint,
Philadelphia.

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Nov. 23. 1853.

Sir,

I have not had the pleasure of receiving a reply to my letter of the 15th inst proposing a change in the mode of paying for silver parted from gold deposites. I consider it expedient and proper that the change should be made. The blanks and books of accounts for the Branch Mint at San Francisco are being prepared; a portion of them however are delayed until your answer is received.

If the change proposed is approved I wish it to go into effect by the 1st prox. and if not approved I will have to order the Coinage of silver dollars of the old standard weight.

These considerations induce me to ask your early attention to the subject.

I have the honor to be
With the highest respect
Your faithful servant.
James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City.

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Nov. 26. 1853

Sir,

In compliance with your letter of yesterday I send you a statement exhibiting the deposits of gold of domestic production at the Mints of the United States from the first deposits of the same to the 31st of October 1853.

From 1804, when the first deposit was made, up to 1823 the quantity of gold received from domestic sources was not large enough to attract notice. Up to the last named period it had only been received from North Carolina and had not exceeded $2,500. yearly. I have therefore stated the aggregate amount received up to 1823 inclusive, and the amount annually received in subsequent years.

This statement, as well as those forwarded on the 23rd inst, have been rapidly prepared for your immediate use, I believe them to be substantially correct, and sufficiently accurate to meet the objects you may have in view. In the report which by the 2nd sect. of the Act of Congress passed Jan. 18. 1837 I am required to make to the President of the United States, I will present these statistics and others relating to the operations of the Mints more fully and at large.

I have the honor to be
with great respect,
Your faithful Servant,
James Ross Snowden
Director U.S. Mints.

Hon. James Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City.

P.S. I omitted to sign Nos. 1 - 2 & 3 of the statements sent on the 23d inst. If necessary, you may cause my name t be placed to them. I got them ready at a very late hour of that day and inadverten made the omission stated.

J. R. S.

Statement

Exhibiting the total deposites of Gold of domestic production at the Mint of the United States and its Branches from the date of the first deposite thereof to the 31st. of October, 1853.

Yrs		Amount
04 to 1823	At the United States Mint	47,000.00
1824	Do Do	5,000.00
1825	" "	17,000.00
1826	" "	20,000.00
1827	" "	21,000.00
1828	" "	46,000.00
1829	" "	140,000.00
1830	" "	466,000.00
1831	" "	520,000.00
1832	" "	678,000.00
1833	" "	868,000.00
1834	" "	898,000.00
1835	" "	698,500.00
1836	" "	467,000.00
1837	" "	282,000.00
1838	At U.S. Mint and Branches	435,100.00
1839	" "	385,240.00
1840	" "	426,185.00
1841	" "	542,117.00
1842	" "	777,097.00
1843	" "	1,045,445.00
1844	" "	967,200.00
1845	" "	1,008,327.00
1846	" "	1,139,357.00
1847	" "	889,085.00
1848	" "	899,405.00
1849	" "	7,088,783.00
1850	" "	36,938,314.00
1851	" "	56,540,612.00
1852	" "	54,506,961.88
To Oct. 31st. 1853	" "	47,042,633.19
	Total	$215,805,362.07

Mint of the United States,
Novr: 26th: 1853.

James Roſs Snowden. Director U.S. Mints.

Statement of the Coinage of the Mint of the United States at Philadelphia from Jany 1st 1853 to October 31st 1853

Gold

	Pieces	Value.
Double Eagles	1,209.256	$24,185.100
Eagles	166190	1,661.900
Half do	287.114	1,435.570
Quarter do	1,195936	2,989 830
Dollars	3,479141	3.479.141
Ps	6,337.636	$33,751.541
nped Bars of Fine Gold		11,949.656.60
		$45,701.197.60

Silver

Dollars	39,000	39,000
Half do	2,924.008	1,462.004
Quarter do	13,634220	3,408.555
Dimes	5,575.010	557.501
Half do	5,185.020	259.251
Ps	27,357.258	$5,726.311
3 Cents	11,400.000	342.000
Ps	38,757.258	$6,068311

Copper

Cents	4,841.299	$48,412.99
Half do	92,580	462.90
	Ps 4,933.879	$48,875.89

Recapitulation

	Pieces	Value.
Gold	6.337.636	$45,701.197.60
Silver	38,757.258	6,068.311
Copper	4,933.879	48 875.89
Ps	50,028.773	$51,818.384.49

Statement of the operations of the Mint & its Branches for the fiscal year ended June 30. 1853.

eposits	Charlotte.	Dahlonega.	New Orleans.	Philadelphia	Total.
	$ cts.	$ cts.	$ cts.	$ cts.	$ cts
Gold	371,574.39	544,843.08	2,684,168.99	55,499,412.68	59,099,999.14
Silver luding Silver Purch's	—	—	2,516,230.65	5,790,637.74	8,306,868.39
tal Gold & Silver Deposits	371,574.39	544,843.08	5,200,399.64	61,290,050.42	67,406,867.53

oinage.	Ps.	Value	Ps.	Value	Ps.	Value	Ps.	Value	Pieces	Value
	Charlotte		Dahlonega.		New Orleans		Philadelphia		Total.	
ld	76,832.	$338,100.	110,616	$534,135.	499,500	$2,675,000.	7,271,752	$52,095,940.50	7,958,700	55,643,175.50
ld Stamp'd Bars	—	—	—	—	—	—		5,065,927.62		5,065,927.62
ilver	—	—	—	—	568,000	$ 76,000	33,638,548	2,586,048.00	34,206,548	2,662,048.00
opper	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,725,264	36,789.76	3,725,264	36,789.76
tal Coinage.	76,832	$338,100	110.616	$534,135.	1,067,500.	$2,751,000	44,635,564.	$59,784,705.88	45,890,512	$63,407,940.88

Statement of the operations of the Mint & its Branches for the quarter ended September 30. 1853.

eposits.	Charlotte.	Dahlonega.	New Orleans	Philadelphia	Total.
old.	$79,031.67	$102,638.63	$146,041.08	$11,045,452.50	$11,373,163.88
ilver luding Silver Parcels.	—	—	$2,304,597.93	1,808,426.27	4,113,024.20
tal Deposits.	$79,031.67	$102,638.63	$2,450,639.01	$12,853,878.77	$15,486,188.08

oinage.	Pieces.	Value.	Pieces.	Value.	Pieces.	Value.	Pieces.	Value.	Pieces.	Value.
	Charlotte.		Dahlonega		New Orleans		Philadelphia		Total.	
old	11,455	$57,275	24,827	$99,860.	74,250.	$265,000.	1,298,222	$8,432,805.00	1,408,754	$8,854,940
ld Stamp^{d} Bars	—	—	—	—	—	—		$3,368,492.11	—	3,368,492.11
ilver	—	—	—	—	3,330,000.	$800,000.	12,480,000.	$2,810,000.00	15,810,000	3,610,000.00
oppe.	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,508,448	15,084.48	1,508,448	15,084.48
	11,455	$57,275.	24,827	$99,860.	3,404,250	$1,065,000	15,286,670	$14,626,381.59	18,727,202	$15,848,516.59

Statement of the operations of the Mint And its Branches for the Month of October 1853.

Deposits	Charlotte	Dahlonega	New Orleans	Philadelphia	Total
Gold	$46,230,69	$29,889,46	$135,777,59	$4,452,000	$4,663,897.74
Silver ding Silver Purchase	—	—	$384,468,26	$ 620,000	$1,004,468.26
tal Deposits	$46,230,69	$29,889,46	$520,245,85	$5,072,000	$5,668,366,00

oinage	Pieces	Value	Pieces	Value	Pieces	Value	Pieces	Value	Pieces	Value
	Charlotte		Dahlonega		New Orleans.		Philadelphia		Total	
Gold	8,462	$42,310	6,261	$29.500			743,014	$1,750,640	757.737	$ 1,822,430
Stam. Bars	—	—	—	—	—	—		$3,515,236,97		$3,515,236,97
Silver	—	—	—	—	980,000	$220,000	6,536,000	$1,210,000	7,516,000	$1,430,000
Copper	—	—	—	—	—	—	850,000	$8,500	850,000	$ 8,500
	8,462	$42,310	6,261	$29.500	980,000	$220,000	8,129,014	$6,484,376,97	9,123,737	$6,776,186,97

Mint of the U States
Philad Nov 26th 1853

Hon James Guthrie
Secy of the Treasy
Sir

By order of the Director I send you the enclosed statement

Very Respy
Your obt Servt
Geo H Dilleker
Paying Clerk

Denominations of Coin on hand at the U.S. Mint Phila Nov 26th 1853

Gold		
Double Eagles	$ 820,000	
Eagles	105,000	
Half Do	90,000	
Quarter Do	179,660	
Dollars	380,859	
Bars	341,660.12	
Remnants &c	13,258.00	$ 1,930,437.12
Silver		
Dollars	$ 4,248	
Half Do	45,700	
Quarter Do	440,200	
Dimes	191,100	
Half Do	69,100	
Remnants &c	267.90	750,615.90
Amt of Balance on hand Phila Nov 26. 1853		$ 2,681,053.02

U.S. Mint
Philad Nov 26, 1853

Mint of the United States
Philada. Nov 28. 1853.

Sir,

I received at 4. o, clock P.M your T/D. in reply to mine of to-day, in which you aſsent to the proposed change in the mode of paying for silver parted from gold.

I was induced to trouble you with a Telegraphic despatch from the fact that our silver dollars are exhausted and I am desirous of having the change take effect on the 1st. prox. I will Telegraph to the Branch Mints tomorrow, so as to have the system uniform at all the mints.

I have the honor to be
with great respect
Your faithful Servt.
James Roſs Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City.

Mint of the United States
Philada. Dec. 2. 1853.

Sir,

I have the honor to request your attention to my letter of the 19th ulto to which I have not had the pleasure of a reply. I recall your attention to that letter because the time is approaching in which it will become necessary to send the workmen to San Francisco:- besides I will be glad to have your sanction to the advance I made to James M. Funk, the workman I sent on the 19th ulto.

I have the honor to be
with great respect,
Your faithful servant,
James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City.

Mint of the U States
Philad Dec 3rd 1853

Hon James Guthrie
Secy of the Treasy
Sir

By order of the Director I send you the following statement

Very Respy
Your obt Sert
Geo. H. Delleker
Buying Clk

Denominations of Coins on hand at the U.S. Mint, Pha. Dec 3d 1853

Gold		
Double Eagles	$ 825,000	
Eagles	115,000	
Half Eagles	92,560	
Quarter Dos	425,770	
Dollars	393,319	
Bars	103,250.70	
Remnants &c	7,591.50	$ 1,962,491.20
Silver		
Dollars	$ 3,550	
Half Dos	8,400	
Quarter Dos	350,500	
Dimes	228,150	
Half Dos	87,850	
Remnants &c	428.54	678,878.54
Total amt of Balance on hand Pha Dec 3d/53		$ 2,641,369.74

U.S. Mint
Philada Dec 3/1853

Mint of the U States
Philad Dec 10th 1853

Hon James Guthrie
Secy of the Treasury
Sir

By order of the Director I send you the enclosed statement

Very Respy
Your Obt Servt
Geo G Delleker
Paying Clerk

Denominations of Coins on hand at the U S Mint Pha. Dec^r 10^th 1853

Gold		
Double Eagles	$ 1,105,000,	
Eagles	100,000	
Half Dols	85,000	
Quarter Dols	421,430	
Dollars	433,356	
Bars	116,468.49	
Remnants &c	13,142.00	$ 2,274,396.49
Silver		
Dollars	$ 1,183	
Half Dols	21,000	
Quarter Dols	287,400	
Dimes	271,500	
Half Dols	124,380	
Remnants &c	599.41	706,062.41
Total Amt Balance on hand Pha Dec 10/53		$ 2,980,458.90

U. S. Mint
Philad Dec 10/53

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Dec. 15, 1853.

Sir,

Several circumstances have combined to prevent an earlier reply to your letter of the 8th inst, which was duly received together with the enclosed Counterfeit Coins.

The subject of these Counterfeits of our Coinage has received a great deal of attention at the Mint, and within the last eleven years, the present Assayers have twice published the results of their investigations. We have had under examination large numbers of pieces, but they are reducible to a few classes. It was thought that the preservation of many duplicates would result in a valueless and uninteresting collection. There are now in the Cabinet of the Mint more than fifty varieties of Counterfeit Coins, and any new samples throwing new light upon the subject or affording new varieties are considered as a valuable addition. Heretofore no Registry of the attendant circumstances of their issue has been kept. I shall now take measures to prepare a Registry as requested by you as far as it is practicable to do so.

The specimens now forwarded are simply tin Casts gilded and are the least likely to deceive of any Counterfeits we have seen for a long time. I enclose for your inspection the half of a counterfeit half Eagle, the representative of a class which annoys and deceives the most skilful receivers of money. It is commented upon fully in the last Publication made by the Assayers upon the subject of Counterfeits. We know however nothing as to the origin of these Counterfeits.

I have the honor to be
With great respect
Your faithful servant,
James Ross Snowden
Director

Hon. James Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City.

P.S. I will thank you for a Copy of your Report to Congress with the accompanying documents

Mint of the United States
Philada. Dec. 15. 1853.

Sir,

I have made arrangements to send the workmen to the Branch Mint at San Francisco and find I have largely to exceed the estimate I presented some months ago. To send them, including the one sent some weeks ago. (Mr. Funk) I have to pay as follows

I. M. Funk passage 20th Nov.	185.00
Fifteen workmen 20 Dec including expenses across the Isthmus $200 each	3,000.00
Expenses of agent going to New York	10.00
	3,195.00
Amount received by me for this purpose	1,500.
Balance for which you	$1,695.00

will please send a Treasury Warrant.

I have adopted the precaution of taking a bond and security from each of the men, conditioned that they will faithfully discharge their duty as workmen in the Branch Mint for six months and as much longer as may be agreed upon by each of them and the Superintendent at San Francisco. They receive no compensation until they reach that place and are then to receive three dollars a day until they are actually employed and then receive whatever the Superintendent may determine not more however than 5$ per day. This is in accordance with your instructions.

I hope to be able to send the books, blanks and other necessary articles by the 20th. I have nearly prepared the instructions to the Superintendent. I have taken time upon this subject because I wish them to be full and complete leaving as little to the discretion of the officers as possible. These instructions I hope to be able to send tomorrow and ask your approval. As I wish your immediate action on them when received in order that I may send them by the Steamer of the 20th inst. (next Tuesday at 2 o'clock P.M.) I will state now the only point you may find it necessary to consider. and that is, as to the rate of charges to depositors for refining, toughening, and separating the gold and silver. The 18 sect. act of 1837 Mint pamphlet p. 16 enacts that the rate of charges shall not exceed the actual expense to the Mint of the materials and labor employed. As we cannot now state what the actual expenses may be. I propose to leave the fixing of the rates of charges to the Superintendent in the first instance, subject to our determination after the works has been carried on. I will send you our rate of charges at this Mint, and it seems evident that, if the government is to be reimbursed, for the expenses of refining, as it ought undoubtedly to be, the rates will have to be higher than here, but how much higher in the absence of practical experience we cannot determine. If the Superintendent puts them low enough at first to get business, the end of a month or at furthest a quarter will determine the question in some measure as to the proper charges to be made.

If we were to put them too high it might prevent depositors from placing their gold in the Mint. It is a subject of some delicacy and difficulty, but I hope the mode suggested may meet with your sanction.

I am with great respect,
your faithful servant,
James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. J. Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia, 16 Dec. 1853.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward you by this mail, for your approval, the "Instructions in relation to the course of accounting for gold & silver at the Branch of the Mint of the United States at San Francisco, California," issued in conformity with the provisions of the Act of 3d July 1852, c 54 § 4.

On page 5 of these 'Instructions' you will find a Note in relation to the point, to which I invited your special attention, in mine of yesterday.

I am desirous of despatching these Instructions to the Supt. of the Branch Mint at San Francisco, by the Steamer leaving New York at 2 O.C. next tuesday afternoon & will therefore be greatly obliged for your prompt action in relation to them.

I have the honor to be
Very respectfully,
Your faithful Servt.

James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie,
Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington.

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Dec. 17. 1853.

Sir,

I enclose the official bond of Dr. John Torrey as Assayer of the New York Assay office, to which I have to ask your approval. I also send you a copy of Dr. Torrey's letter to me. I will thank you for the information he desires. Dr. J. Cobb the Melter and Refiner has been with us some days, preparing himself for the discharge of his official duties. I would be glad to be able to inform him as to the time his salary commences and in what manner it will be paid.

I have the honor to be
with great respect
your faithful servant

James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City.

Copy

New York Dec, 12th 1858

Dear Sir,

I enclose you my bond for the office of Assayer, It has been delayed on account of the difficulty of finding the Judge disengaged from his Court duties, When I had the pleasure of calling on you shortly after my appointment, you thought there would be no difficulty about my drawing pay from the date of my commission, I find it is the practice of the Government to do so in other cases & I hope that I shall not be an exception, Please inform me through what channel I shall present my account, I have been constantly in communication with Capt. Cullum, as I was with his predecessor Capt. Bowman giving such directions and advice as it was in my power to bestow, so that I have by them at least been considered as in Service,

I ought to have stated that Mr William Shaw who is my Bondsman is the Senior partner of the old and well known firm of Sturgis & Shaw (late Wright Sturgis & Shaw) – large importing merchants of this City and of the highest reputation as you will find by enquiry.

After the first of January next I hope to be much at the Mint. The assay office rises slowly and there is much to do before we can work,

With many thanks for your kind attentions. I remain Dear Sir

Yours very truly

John Torrey

J. R. Snowden Esq

Denominations of Coins on hand at the U. S. Mint Pha Dec 17. 1853

Gold		
Double Eagles	$ 595,000.	
Eagles	170,000	
Half Do	128,280	
Quarter Do	468,170	
Dollars	391,730	
Bars	242,600.53	
Remnants &c	14.125.00	$ 2.009,905.53
Silver		
Dollars	$ 1.169.	
Half Do	93,500	
Quarter Do	228,000	
Dimes	278,900	
Half Do	199,700	
Remnants &c	442.52	801,711.52
Total Amt of Balance on hand Pha Dec 17. 1853		$ 2,811,617.05

U. S. Mint
Philad. Dec 17. 1853

Instructions in relation to the course of accounting for Gold and Silver at the Branch of the Mint of the United States at San Francisco California.

A. Of the Purchase of Bullion for Coinage on behalf of the United States.

1. When a deposit of bullion is made at the

great additional labor upon me, but I addressed myself to the work in all its details, and have satisfactorily, I think, determined the fact that I can manage the institution committed to my charge as well without him as with the aid of his services.

Instructions in relation to the course of accounting for gold and Silver at the Branch of the Mint of the United States at San Francisco California.

A. Of the Purchase of Bullion for Coinage on behalf of the United States.

1. When a deposit of bullion is made at the Mint it is first received by the Treasurer, by whom or under whose direction, it is weighed immediately, and in the presence of the depositor if practicable. But if the bullion be of leſs value than $100, (which may nearly enough be judged by its weight and appearance) or if it be so base as to be unsuitable for the operations of the Mint, it may be legally refused.

2. The Weigher enters in his Weigh-Book the date of deposit, kind of bullion, in what shape and by whom deposited; if gold, from what state or Country originally derived, when this is known or can be readily ascertained. If the bullion be of gold, and contains a considerable quantity of Silver, it is noted as "Gold containing Silver", and so in the opposite case, and the bullion is entered in the gold or Silver weighing-book, according as the gold or Silver appears to excel in weight. If there are several parcels, they are weighed severally according to the wishes of the depositor, but it is not usual to make distinct assays of separate parcels belonging to the same individual unless for some sufficient reason. The weights before melting are expressed in the left hand of the two sets of columns of the book in ounces and decimal parts of an ounce. Gold is weighed to the $\frac{1}{100}$th (.01) of an ounce and Silver to the $\frac{1}{10}$th (.10) of an ounce; fractions of these parts are not given to the depositor.

3. The Weigher gives a receipt for the weight before melting, which the depositor is required to surrender to the Mint, when he calls for the payment of his deposit. If the depositor gives up

his receipt to a third party, he must endorse it before doing so. In the event of losing his receipt, he is required to give a Bond of Indemnity for Lost Mint Receipt.

4. If the Assayer decides that the bullion ought to be melted before it can be assayed, the Melter & Refiner receives it, unofficially for that purpose; it is melted on the same day or as soon thereafter as possible, and returned without delay to the Treasurer, in whose custody it has remained, in point of law, throughout this process.

5. The Weigher enters the weight after melting in the right hand of the two sets of columns of the weigh-book. As by long experience, it is well ascertained what are the proper limits of loss in melting, it is the duty of the Weigher, at this stage to see that these limits are not exceeded, or if they are to satisfy himself that the peculiarity of the case justified it. The Weigher usually makes a note in the weigh-book, if a deposit is dirty or Stony, or exceeds or falls short of the marked weight or amount; this is very useful and satisfactory.

The following rules will be of Service:

An Estimate by the Assayer of the principal Mint of what should be the ordinary loss, and what the extreme limit of loss, in melting gold and Silver deposits, preparatory to the Assay, as far as he can judge from his own experiments, and from what should be expected from careful operators, in ordinary routine.

Gold.

Description.	Loss in Weight of parcels of 5 ozs to 20 ozs Ordinary	Extreme	of 20 ozs to 100 ozs. Ordinary	Extreme,	of 100 ozs to 500 ozs, Ordinary	Extreme,
Clean Bars, Lumps & Cakes.	.01	.02	.01	.05	.03	.25
Grains & Dust.	average Loss 3 per cent; if very clean 1 per cent: reasonably dirty 4 to 5 per cent,					
Coins.	.01	.02	.01	.08	.03	.15
Jewelry Plate	.01	.02	.01	.05	.03	.25 uncertain on account of Solder
Amalgum,	Irregular and uncertain,					
		.02	.01	.05	.03	.25

(uncertain on account of Solder.)

Amalgum,	Irregular and uncertain.					
Laminated,	.01	.02	.01	.05	.03	.25

Silver.

Description.	Deduction if not melted.	Ordinary Loss if melted.	Extreme Loss if melted.
1. Bars, Pigs & Teste Bottoms, clean,	$\frac{1}{10}$th of 1 per, ct,	$\frac{1}{6}$th of 1 per cent.	$\frac{1}{4}$th of 1 per cent
2. The same not clean,	must be melted,	$\frac{1}{4}$th of 1 " "	$\frac{1}{3}$th of 1 " "
3. Coins,	$\frac{75}{100}$ths of 1 oz: for $1000,	$\frac{1}{10}$th of 1 " "	$\frac{1}{7}$th of 1 " "
4. Jewelry & Plate,	must be melted.	$\frac{1}{5}$th of 1 " "	$\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 " "
5. Amalgum,	must be melted.	from 2 to 5 per cent,	from 5 to 10 " "

N. B. – Clean bars of gold are frequently melted in small quantities, without any loſs, and when a single bar is deposited and appears to have been well melted, it is somtimes assayed without remelting, and of course reported without loſs. The regular deduction from gold coins, not melted for Aſsay, (as when they are not mixed, and are of uniform and known fineness) is $\frac{76}{1000}$ths of an ounce per draught of 250 ounces. The above estimates of losses in gold suppose that a protective flux (as borax) has been used. A refining flux (as nitre) is not used in melting for assay, unless the metal be in a very pure and intractable condition; in which case, as the loſs will be uncertain and considerable the depositor ought to be informed in regard to the process.

6. As soon as the weight after melting (or after deduction where melting is dispensed with) is ascertained, the Treasurers Clerk transcribes the date of deposit, name of the depositor, description and number of bullion, and weight after melting, upon a blank called the Assayers Report. This is taken to the Assayer, who, at the same time, (or previously) cuts off such small portions of the bullion as may be necessary for his operations.

N. B. — In the flux of almost every deposit of grains or dust there will remain minute globules of gold, which for each particular case, it would be impossible to separate. A series of careful experiments made by the Assayer of the Mint has shewn this to be about $\frac{1}{100}$ths of an ounce to every 25 ounces of the metal after melting: the practice therefore is to add that much to every deposit at its second weighing. This, of course in addition to the larger grains which are gathered in the flux of each deposit after it is ground or pounded and washed.

7. The Assayer inserts in the Report, the fineness of the bullion and the fineness of the gold or silver parted therefrom, providing the precious metal contained shall be worth five dollars or more after allowing for cost of parting and necessary alloy. He also notes on the Report the charges or deductions to which the deposit is subject.

Note. — The following rate of charges has been adopted upon deposits of Gold and Silver bullion, at the Mint in Philadelphia, and the Branch Mint New Orleans.

I. "For Refining, — When the bullion is below Standard."

1. On Gold — Three cents per ounce of gross weight after melting, on so much of a deposit as will bring the whole up to Standard.

2. On Silver — From 500 to 700 fine, 3 cents per ounce as above.
" 701 to 800 " 2½ " " " "
801 to 899 " 2 " " " "

II. "For Toughening, — when metals are contained in it which render it unfit for coinage."

1 On Gold — From one to three and a half cents per ounce of gross weight after melting, according to the condition of the metal.

2. On Silver — "If not coppery" — one third to one cent pr. oz. as above.

2. On Silver — If not Coppery — one third to one cent per oz. as above.
"If Coppery" 500 to 700 fine, 3 cents per oz as above.
701 to 800 " 2½ " " " "
801 to 925 " 2 " " " "

III. "For Copper used for Alloy", two cents per ounce.

IV. "For Silver introduced into the Alloy of Gold", one hundred and twenty nine $\frac{29}{99}$ cents per oz. of pure Silver.

V. "For separating the Gold and Silver, when these metals exist together in the bullion.

1. If not Coppery
Proportion of Gold } 1 to 200ths. 1½ cents pr. oz. groſs after melting
" 201 to 600 " 2 " " " "
" 601 to 700 " 3 " " " "
701 to 800 " 4 " " " " "
801 to 946 " 5 " " " " "

2. If Coppery:
Proportion of Silver 500 to 700 fine. the Gold in any proportion not leſs than 1½ thousandths. 3 cents per oz groſs after melting
701 to 800 fine 2½ " " " " " "
801 to 925 " 2 " " " " " "

3. Limit to the Separating of Gold and Silver, — Neither Gold nor Silver shall be separated for the benefit of the depositor, when the net product of operation, estimated upon the above charges, shall be leſs than five dollars.

VI. For casting into ingots of fine or Standard bars six cents per one hundred dollars.

Note — The foregoing tariff of charges has been adopted with the concurrence of the Secretary of the Treasury, conformably to the provisions of the Mint law of January 18. 1837, Section 18. It appears from the concluding terms of this Section, that a tariff of charges must be framed) so as not to exceed the actual expense to the Mint of the materials and labor employed in each of the cases aforementioned, and the Act creating a "Branch" in California declares the laws regulating the Mint to be in full force in relation to said Branch, so far as the same be applicable thereto. Now these expenses, being so much greater in San Francisco than in Philadelphia, it is manifest that a higher tariff must be adopted, but the impossibility of determining these expenses in advance of actual experiment, renders it proper to leave the adjusting of the tariff of Charges in the San Francisco Mint to the Superintendent of said Branch, in the first instance subject, in subsequent operations, to such modification as may be necessary and suitable upon a report from him to the Director, who will determine the same with the concurrence of the Secretary of the Treasury.

8. The Assayers Report is put into the hands of one of the Treasurers Clerks specially charged with the calculation of the deposits, who transfers from it the finenesses therein given to a sheet forming the "Abstract of Bullion Deposits." This Clerk proceeds to make the necessary calculations based upon the weight and fineness of the deposit as reported, and enters his results in the several columns found upon the sheet or abstract. When this operation has been completed, the Abstract exhibits the entire history of a depos beginning with the weight after melting and closing with its net value and the mode of its payment.

9. The Superintendents Clerk before filling the Warrant for the payment of a deposit, ascertains the correctness of the net value stated on the Abstract, multiplying the weight after melting of the deposit by the net value (given in tables prepared for that purpose) of an ounce of Gold at the particular fineness reported. If he agrees with the

Treasurers Clerk, the warrant for payment is filled up and signed by the Superintendent. The Treasurers Clerk then makes out an Assay memorandum stating the transaction in detail and giving the net value for each parcel for the use and satisfaction of the depositor.

10. When the depositor presents his receipt and he signs the receipt on the back of the Warrant and duplicate in the Register of Warrants the Coins are then paid to him and he receives likewise the memorandum above mentioned.

11. A press copy of the calculations as spread upon the Abstract of Bullion Deposits is retained in the Mint.

12. The Act of 4th March/53. c 97. on page 62 of Mint pamphlet requires the profits of the Mint to be transferred annually to the Treasury of the United States: In the abstract of Bullion Deposits, the charge of ½ per cent for coinage must be credited to "Bullion Deposit Profit & Loss" transferable to the Treasury of the United States:- the charges for parting and for manufacturing bars must be credited to "Profit & Loss" available for the ordinary expenditures of the Br. Mint, and the credit of 4 per cent premium on Silver must be charged to "Silver Purchase Profit & Loss", the balance to the credit of which account is transferable to the Treasury of the United States.

B. Of the accounts of Officers in the Mint.

The only Officers, who account with each other are the Treasurer with the Melter & Refiner and the Treasurer with the Coiner; and in receiving and paying deposits and in making transfers of bullion & clippings, these Officers either attend personally or by their delegated representatives.

The small parcels of bullion which are employed by the Assayer in his operations are, in point of law, within the custody of the Melter & Refiner.

From time to time, the Treasurer delivers gold and silver bullion & clippings to the Melter & Refiner; both these officers make entries of such deliveries in their Books. The Melter & Refiner is charged with the standard weight of deposits after their quality has been reported by the Assayer, and with the actual weight of clippings, which is always presumed to be of standard fineness.

When the ingots or fine gold bars have been prepared by the Melter & Refiner, assay slips are taken ~~off~~ from the first and last ingot of each melt, or off from a small fine gold bar, by the Assayer, who reports the fineness of such as are within the proper limits, others are reported as condemned and must be retained by the Melter & Refiner for remelting. The act of 18th January 1837 provides, that gold ingots may vary from 898 to 902, but the practice is rarely to pass gold ingots varying more than from 899.5 to 900.5 and silver ingots from 898 to 902. Fine gold bars are usually reported as correct when they have a fineness of 990 or more, the lowest limit of 989 being of rare occurrence.

The Assayers reports of approved ingots are kept on file by the Treasurer. The ingots having been approved, the Coiner, Melter & Refiner, and Treasurer or their delegates attend at the weighing and three accounts must be taken of the weights at the time. It is necessary that the Coiner should attend (as well as the Melter & Refiner) because the ingots are weighed but once, and the delivery to the Treasurer by the Melter & Refiner is simultaneous with the delivery by the Treasurer to the Coiner.

In weighing gold and Silver ingots and bullion, the maximum weight, which the scale beam is calculated to bear, should not be exceeded and the largest number of ingots of the various denominations, within the limit above mentioned should be placed upon the scale, (the number varying with the different denominations) and accurately weighed, and the Account kept by each Officer in ounces and hundredths of an ounce, the 1/100th of an ounce being the smallest weight used in weighing gold, and the tenth of an ounce, the smallest weight used in weighing Silver.

Whenever the Coiner is about to make a delivery of coins to the Treasurer, he gives notice to the latter to attend at the weighing, at which time it is to be ascertained ~~whether~~ that the coins are within the limits prescribed by law, agreeably to the 25th and 26th Sections of the Act of January 18th 1837. The coins being approved are delivered to the Treasurer by tale, and their standard weight is deduced therefrom by calculation and so charged.

At the time of such delivery, the Assayer also attends, while the Treasurer takes 1 piece for every $30.000 of double-eagles, — 1 piece for every $20.000 of eagles, — 1 piece for every $10.000 of half eagles, — 1 piece for every $10.000 of quarter eagles, and ten pieces are generally taken from ~~every~~ delivery of gold dollars, which usually amounts to $50.000. The Treasurer takes 1 piece for every 5000 pieces of Silver. These pieces are taken, before the actual delivery, as assay-pieces, agreeably to Section 27th: Such pieces are noted in a book kept for the purpose, stating their numbers, kind, weight, value, and to what Warrants they correspond; they are then enveloped in papers properly endorsed and forwarded monthly by Mail to the Director of the Mint at Philadelphia.

ote page 11th

At the close of the quarter the Treasurer, Coiner, and Melter & Refiner, sum up, each in his own book, appropriated for that purpose, the various deliveries of bullion, ingots, clippings and coins. If all accounts agree, in standard weight and value, the Superintendents clerk makes out warrants for the sum, as if the various daily deliveries of each kind constituted one delivery, at the end of the quarter. These warrants are signed by the Superintendent, receipted on the back by the proper Officer, and form the basis of the Treasurers journal entries, they are forwarded also to Washington quarterly with other vouchers. The Coiner, and Melter & Refiner furnish quarterly abstracts of their accounts to be forwarded with the Treasurers counter statements thereof, to the Department at Washington.

Once at least in every year, at such time as the Director shall appoint, the Coiner and Melter & Refiner shall deliver up to the Treasurer all the coins and bullion in their posession accompanied with statements of the two officers just named, of the amount of bullion of each kind (gold or silver) received and returned by them respectively during the year exclusive of balances, also, the amount returned for the purpose of settlement, and the amount of the allowance, which they require as wastage.

The Melter & Refiner shall be charged at the end of each quarter, with the amount parted for the benefit of the Mint and not for depositors, and he shall present once in every year a fair estimate of the proceeds, after deducting all charges, of such sweeps as he may have not melted, such estimate to be verified by trials and calculations of the Assayer; and if the Coiners and Melter & Refiners accounts shall be found just by the Treasurer, and if the Director (or Superintendent) shall be well satisfied that there has been a bona fide waste of the precious metals, he shall allow the same by his warrants, provided the claim do not exceed the limits prescribed in Sections 23 and 29 of the law already referred to.

Note.— The amount of Silver alloy left in a deposit of silvery gold, is based upon the estimate that the gold is refined to 990. In order to make this into Standard gold, it is necessary to add 100 parts of copper, there being 10 parts of Silver therein not parted out. This gives the proportion of Silver alloy as compared with the mass as 1 to 110, or $\frac{1}{110}$th. Now $\frac{1}{110}$th of the mass or of the Standard weight of the gold shews the amount of pure Silver contained, and this is equal to $\frac{1}{99}$th of the same for Standard Silver. In the abstract it is stated that $\frac{1}{99}$th of the Standard weight of gold gives the standard weight of Silver left therein, and the remainder of the Silver constitutes the amount parted out for the benefit of the depositor. By this arrangement it becomes unnecessary to keep an account of Silver alloy, as heretofore, as when the total amount of Silver was charged to the Melter & Refiner and he was afterwards credited with the Silver alloy, although it was only theoretically put back by him into the gold.

Note.— From the first ten deliveries of coin, made by the Coiner to the Treasurer, there is to be taken, in addition to the Assay pieces already referred to, duplicates of the same, which must be properly enveloped & forwarded to the Director of the Mint at Philadelphia, by the first opportunity.

Instructions in relation to the Accounts of Ordinary Expenses of the Mint Establishment.

These accounts are classified as follows:

1. The Salaries of Officers & Clerks. These are paid quarterly. Pay-rolls are made up according to the forms annexed. Form (A) containing details as to occupation, time &c is retained on file at the Mint. Form (B) containing names, amounts paid & receipt is enclosed in the Warrant of the Director or Superintendent, which is issued for the total amount of the pay-roll, and goes with the quarterly accounts to Washington.

2. Wages of Workmen. These are paid monthly. Duplicate Pay-rolls are prepared as per annexed forms. Form 2A, is retained on file at the Mint, and form 2B, enclosed in a warrant of the Director or Superintendent, goes with the quarterly accounts.

3. Incidental & Contingent Expenses & Repairs of the Mint. All persons having demands against the ordinary Fund of the Mint, must present detailed bills of the same in duplicate. These bills, when presented, are refered to the Officer for whose department the expense was incurred, for the purpose of being examined and certified. When a bill is found to be right, both in the items charged and the calculations, the Officer writes at the foot of it "Correct" and signs his name. He then places it in the hands of the Director, or Superintendent, by whom a warrant is issued for its payment. This Warrant with the bills in duplicate, is then placed in the Treasurers hands. When payment is demanded, the duplicate bills are to be receipted, and a receipt is also taken on the foot of the Warrant. The

warrant is entered in the "Register of Warrants paid", and the proper number and date attached. One of the bills is enclosed in the warrant, which is to be presented warrant is entered in the "Register of Warrants paid", and the proper number and date attached. One of the bills is enclosed in the warrant, which is to be presented to the Paying clerk for payment. The duplicate bill is placed on file.

The moneys of this account are derived from the appropriations of Congress, and from such mint charges as are by law available for the ordinary expenses of the Mint.

A Journal and Ledger account is kept, in which all moneys received are charged to the Treasurer of the Mint and credited to the United States.

At the close of each quarter the accounts of Salaries of Officers & Clerks, "Wages of Workmen", Incidental and Contingent Expenses", respectively are charged, and "Treasurer of the Mint", credited, with the total amount paid under each head during the quarter. These several accounts are closed at the same time by the account of "the United States".

The books belonging to the ordinary Account are the Journal & Ledger, Register of Warrants paid, Register of Petty Expenses, Register of appropriations.

The Register of Warrants paid exhibits in separate columns, the date of payment, number of Warrant, by whom paid, for what paid, amount paid in two columns - one for Incidental & Contingent Expenses, & the other for Salaries and Wages.

The Register of Petty Expenses. All bills of $10. and less are paid ~~without~~ warrant. They are entered in a Register, giving in separate columns, date, number, name, for what paid, and amount. Each bill is endorsed with its number, name & dates - and at the close of the quarter, an abstract of the Petty Expense Register is prepared, which with the petty bills enclosed, is covered by a warrant of the Director or Superintendent, in favor of the Treasurer of the Branch Mint, for the whole amount. This Warrant is entered upon the "Register of Warrants paid," — all the petty payments being thus regarded as paid on the last day of the quarter.

The Register of appropriations. This book exhibits on the Dr, side, in separate columns, the annual appropriations of Congress for Salaries, Wages &c, and on the Cr. side, in corresponding columns, the amount from time to time drawn from the United States Treasury.

At the close of each quarter, a Statement of the Ordinary Account is rendered to the 1st Auditor of the Treasury. This Account consists of 1. A cash a/c being an abstract of the journal entries. 2. Abstracts of the Register of Warrants paid: viz. — Abstract of Warrants paid for the Incidental & Contingent Expenses. Abstract of Warrants paid for Wages of Workmen. Abstract of Salaries of Officers & Clerks (as the Salaries are paid quarterly, the Pay-Roll is a sufficient Abstract.) The Warrants belonging to each of these heads, with its appropriate abstract, are to be separately enveloped & endorsed.

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia Dec, 16. 1853.
(Signed) James Ross Snowden,
Director.

(Signed)
Approved. Dec 17. 1853.
James Guthrie.
Sec, of the Treasury.

Director of the Mint
Phila – Decr 16/53

Copy

Instructions in relation to the course of Accounting for Gold and Silver, at the U.S. Branch Mint, San Francisco. California.

File

M – 577
Aug 21/54
File

Private.

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Dec. 20. 1853.

Dear Sir,

I enclose a letter to you from Dr. Sturgeon the Treasurer of the Mint, to which I beg leave to call your attention and also the following remarks.

The conversation I had the pleasure of having with you on board the Steam boat on the occasion of the President's visit to Philada. took place shortly after I had entered upon my official duties. At that time I was desirous of retaining Mr. Robert Patterson as Director's Clerk and was willing to give any assistance in my power to have his compensation increased and, if possible his official position advanced to that of Assistant or Chief Clerk. But he would not agree to the arrangement and resigned. He left me at a time when I was greatly pressed in my official duties and had to select a new clerk totally unacquainted with Mint transactions. His resignation and withdrawal from the Mint threw great additional labors upon me, but I addressed myself to the work in all its details, and have satisfactorily, I think, determined the fact that I can manage the institution committed to my charge as well without him as with the aid of his services.

When I entered upon my duties I found the Mint in arrears of work especially in the silver Coinage, for which there was a great demand; to supply the public I organized the establishment in such a manner as to work night and day and thus produced double the coinage it had heretofore struck. Besides which I had many difficult questions to determine which arose from the silver purchases and, acting under your instructions, had the labor and responsibility, in part, of preparing the Branch Mint at San Francisco and the New York Assay Office to go into operations at an early day. My labors in these respects are not ended but I may say that the most difficult & troublesome points are settled and arranged. –

I have on hand beyond the wants of depositors. I may say a-head of their demands, at least $2,000,000 in gold coins and say about $1,000,000 in silver coins

I state these facts for the purpose of showing that there is no necessity for a change in the organization of the Mint, and that an Assistant to the Director is unnecessary.

I think however that there

should be an increase in the Salaries of the Director and Treasurer and Clerks as represented by Dr. Sturgeon, in whose views I concur, except that I would propose that the maximum salaries for the Clerks should be $1800. as is stated in the proposition hereinafter presented. And I am authorised to say that Dr. Sturgeon agrees to the proposition as presented. But we will be satisfied with either plan, as you may think best.

The Salaries in question are the same as fixed eighteen or twenty years ago since which time the expenses of living have enormously increased. Besides the reasons stated by Dr. Sturgeon I may state that I am as Chief Officer of the Mint called on nearly every day to contribute to various public and private objects many of which it is ungracious to refuse.

But I will not further enlarge upon this subject. I propose the following suggestions to your consideration, with the hope that they meet with your approval.

"The Salary of the Director of the Mint from the 1st. day of July 1853 shall be six thousand dollars per annum, and he shall be allowed the reasonable expenses hereafter incurred, either by himself or such other officer or person employed in the Mint as he may designate, in visiting the different Branches or official business. Provided that the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury shall be obtained before any such visit is made.

The salary of the Treasurer of the Mint shall be, from the time last named, three thousand dollars.*

The clerks in the Mint shall be allowed such annual salary as the Director with the approbation of the President may determine. Provided that no clerk shall receive more than eighteen hundred dollars per annum.

I may add that when the present salaries were fixed the operations of all the Mints did not exceed $4,000,000 per annum — Now the the Coinage at the principal Mint alone (Phil^a) is say $53,000,000 per annum, occasioning an enormous increase in the labor and responsibilities of the officers and clerks.

My duties as the Director of the principal Mint are great and engrossing, but when my official connexion with the Branches are taken into view the magnitude of my official labors are very apparent.

But I will leave the subject in your hands without further remarks.

I am, with great regard
Yours, faithfully & truly
James Ross Snowden

Hon. James Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City.

Mr Pease

---

* The Treasurer now receives, as follows. Treas. Mint $2,000.
He is ex officio Asst Treas — 1,000
Pension agent — 1,000
4,000
It is not hard to make his salary $5,000. in all.

Hon James Guthrie
Sect of the Treasury

U. S. Mint Philadelphia
December 19th 1853

Dr Sir

I was pleased to see a recommendation in your Annual report to Congress of an increase of Salary to the Clerks of the Mint, The necessity and Justice of this measure cannot but be obvious to any one who will take the trouble to investigate the subject

The salaries of the Clerks in the Mint were fixed at $1200 in the year 1837, when the business of that Institution, then, as compared with what it is at present was comparatively limited, Then the the receipts and coinage of bullion was from three to five Millions of dollars seldom reaching the latter sum when at the present time it amounts to $50 or 60,000,000 per Annum, thus adding vastly to the labour and responsibility of the Clerks, and pointing out clearly the necessity and Justice of offering a proper remuneration so as to secure the services of those who have shown themselves competent & trustworthy, Another reason for an increase of Salary is the great increase in the expense of living in the City of Philadelphia, This increase in expense is at least one half more than it was when the Salaries were fixed in 1837 and the increase has principally taken place in the last two and three years, and more particularly in the last year, We would also respectfully represent to you the necessity of an increase to the salary of the Clerk to the Asst Treasurer whose duties are laborious and responsible so as to make it equal to the second class clerks in the Mint, The salary allowed by law to the Asst Treasurers clerk is $900, But years back by an arrangement of the then Director of the Mint with the Secty of the Treasury the clerk was required to do some writing for the Mint for which the additional sum of $300 was added to his salary making it equal to the Mint Clerks, This addition was necessary at the time in order to retain the the services of a competent clerk, this additional work has to be done by the clerk before office hours, This should not be so,

The clerks in the mint are seven I would sugest to you the following rates of compensation, Three of the seven clerks at the rate of $1800 per annum, and the other four at the rate of $1500, each per annum, and the clerk of the Asst Treasurer at $1500

Now my dear Sir after having disposed of the clerks permit me to say a word as regards the Director & myself By the act of 1837 the salary of the Director was fixed at $3500, about that time there was added to his duties the care and superintendance of three Branch Mints and subsequently another at San Francisco and an Assay office at New York thus greatly increasing his labours & responsibilities, I think under all the circumstances his salary should not be less than $6000

The salary of the Treasurer of the Mint was fixed at the same time (1837) at $2000 when the responsibilities of the situation were but comparatively small, Receiving and coining as I have said before less than $5,000,000 per annum, and now from $50 to 60,000,000. The Treasurer then gave bond in the sum of $10,000 now $210,000. I would respectfully suggest that $1000 should be added to the Treasurers Salary making with his pay as Asst. Treasurer and agent for paying pensions $5000

The same reasons on account of the high prices of living, will apply with greater force to the Director and Treasurer than to the clerks, as their position requires more outlay

And again the salaries of the Director and Treasurer does not corospond with the other officers of the U.S. in Philada. The Collector of Customs gets $6000 The Naval Officer gets $5,000 and the Surveyor $4,500.* Neither of these officers have anything like the responsibility of the Director or Treasurer of the Mint; Not that I think that the above officers salaries are too high, But I think that ours should bear some proportion to theirs, You will excuse me for thus occupying your time with my long letter particularly as you have some personal knowledge of the matter on which I have taken the liberty of addressing you

Yours with sincere
respect & Esteem
Danl. Sturgeon
Treasurer
U.S. M.

× These officers & above also receive fees.

Mint of the United States
Philada. Dec. 20. 1853.

Sir,

I have your favor of yesterday. In addition to the amount on hand, I think it necessary that the Branch Mint at San Francisco be supplied with $6,000 in silver. I suggest that you cause a transfer draft for that amount to be issued, on the Treasurer of this Mint in favor of the Treasurer of that Branch, and I will have the amount, in pure silver, forwarded per Messrs Adams & Co. You will please have it endorsed so that it will not require the signature of the Treasurer of the Branch Mint.

After the operations of the Branch Mint have commenced, they will have a sufficient supply of silver from the partings of the California gold not only for refining the gold, but to produce a silver coinage to a limited extent. The pure silver will only be necessary to be supplied for their first operations.

I have the honor to be
With great respect
Your faithful servant,
James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie.
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City.

Mint of the United States.
Phil^a. Dec. 21, 1853.

Sir,

As we now pay entirely in Silver Coin for silver purchased; and have been for some time past exchanging silver for gold, it seems proper that the Circular heretofore issued, on this subject, should be modified. I present the enclosed paper for your consideration.

The proposition to pay for silver to be purchased at San Francisco by drafts on New York I presume would aid that Branch in procuring silver, as drafts on New York command a considerable premium. But I am unable to say whether it would suit the convenience of the Treasury Department to make that arrangement. If it is approved, the amount might be limited to such sum as you may determine. In accordance with which, the instructions could be given to the Superintendent.

I do not propose any change in the prices of silver. I have the honor to be
with great respect
your faithful servant,
James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States
Philada. Dec. 22. 1853.

Sir,

I enclose a copy of a letter I received to day from Drs. Cobb and Torrey of the New York Assay office.

The 10th sect. of the act of March 4. 1853 (Mint pamph page 64) establishing an Assay office in New York provides "that the Secretary of the Treasury with the approbation of the President shall appoint such officers and clerks, and authorise the employment of such assistants, workmen and servants as shall be necessary" &c. "Provided that the compensation shall not exceed that allowed for corresponding services under existing laws relating to the Mint of the U.S. and its Branches. The 7th sec. of the Mint law. (Mint pamp. pp. 12 - 13. *inter alia*, provides that the salaries of the Assistants and Clerks shall be determined by the Director with the approbation of the President. Provided that an assistant shall not receive more $1500. and that a clerk shall not receive more than $1200.—

The 3d Sect. of said law, enacts that the Assistants to the Melter and Refiner, Assayer, Chief Coiner and Engraver shall be appointed by the Director with the approbation of the President.

Under this law no assistants have been appointed except an Assistant Assayer. The Melter and Refiner, Chief Coiner and Engraver have foremen who are nominally called their Assistants at a per diem Com=pensation of $3.50 per day.

The gentlemen appointed for the New York office might have assistants of the same character, or if you see proper they can ~~have~~ regularly appointed ~~as~~ Assistants.

Professor Booth, the Melter and Refiner of this Mint, some time ago applied to me to have a regular assistant appointed. But I declined asking for it.

I have however in connexion with the enclosed letter present his application to your Consideration and will cheerfully acquiesce in whatever determination you may make of the subject.

Mr. Booth nominates to me, Mr. John H. Taylor his present assistant a gentleman of the highest qualifications for the station and possesses my entire confidence.

I have the honor to be
with great respect
Your faithful servt,
James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City

James. Ross. Snowden
Director U. S. Mint
Phil. Dec, 22d 1858

Enclosing Copy of Drs Cobb & Torreys Letter, relation to appointing their assistants,

In relation to the appointment of an assistant to the Melter & Refiner of this Mint

McKean

Enclose Copy of accompanying regulation & inform Director that two clerks have been appointed one at 2000$ & one

M-575
Dec 26/58
McKean

at 1500.

Request him in concurrence with Drs. Cobb & Torrey respectively to nominate suitable persons for their assistants at the salaries stated in the regulation.

& that the recommendation for an asst to Mr Booth is suspended in view of the probable diminution of business at the Mint. When the assay office goes into operation in New York

Dec 25 1858

Copy

New York Dec. 21st 1838

Dear Sir,

We beg leave to call your attention to the appointment of our assistants in the aſsay office of New York. It is very desirable that they should be selected, and put in a course of training at the Mint without delay. In our letters of appointment from the Secretary of the Treasury, we were directed to confer with you, as to the proper candidates for the offices alluded to, & we shall agree with you as to the gentlemen you may nominate. We beg you will lay this subject before the Secretary of the Treasury, & request him to make the appointments at an early day, that ample time may be given the appointees for the acquisition of that minute practical knowledge which is so neceſsary to the succeſsful operations of the assay office.

We remain, Dear Sir,
Very Respectfully Yours,

J. Cobb
Melter & Refiner.

John Torrey
Assayer.

To. J.R. Snowden Esq
Director of the Mint
Philadelphia,

Mint of the U States
Phila Dec 24th 1853

Hon James Guthrie
Secy of the Treasy
Sir

By order of the Director I send you the enclosed statement

Very Respy
Your obt Servt
Geo G. [illegible]
Paying Clerk

Denominations of coin on hand at the U.S. Mint Pha. Decr 24th 1853.

Gold

Double Eagles	$ 245,000	
Eagles	205,000	
Half Dos	85,000	
Quarter Dos	487,470	
Dollars	320,441	
Bars	394,156,29	
Remnts &c	17,348.	$ 1,754,415,29

Silver

Dollars	$ 1,134	
Half Dos	149,300	
Quarter Dos	244,200	
Dimes	457,000	
Half Dos	228,600	
Remnts &c	631,74	$ 1,080,865,74
Total amt of Bal on hand Decr 24th 1853,		$ 2,835,281,03

U.S. Mint
Phila Dec 24. 1853

O&H

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Dec. 27. 1853.

Sir,

The large amount of silver purchased at New Orleans has diminished the Bullion fund of that Branch, in gold, below what is requisite to enable it to make prompt payments of gold deposites. To accomplish this object I suggest that $250,000 in gold be transferred to that Branch from such place as you may deem most expedient.

I enclose a copy of the Superintendent's letter to me on this subject.

I have the honor to be
with great respect
Your faithful Servant,

James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie.
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City.

Copy

U. S. Branch Mint New Orleans
December 19th 1853,

Sir,

I have to inform you that the amount of gold coins in the Treasury of this Branch Mint is inadequate for making prompt payments to depositors of gold bullion, the government deposite of gold coins has been used to a considerable extent in paying for Silver Bullion,

To enable us to make prompt payments, I would respectfully suggest a Transfer of 250,000 Dollars to this Branch Mint in gold coins,

If it meet with your approbation, be pleased to make a requisition upon the Secretary of the Treasury for that sum,

Very Respectfully
Your Obt Svt
Charles Bienvenu
Supt

James R. Snowden Esq
Director U.S. Mint
Philadelphia,

Mint of the United States.
Philad^a. Dec. 28. 1853.

Sir,

I have your favor of yesterday, enclosing a copy of "the Regulations for the Branch Mint at New York." I have communicated to Dr. Cobb and Torrey your instructions. The former is assayer at New York, the latter, at Boston.

By some inadvertence you did not enclose the Circular respecting silver; but it is perhaps unnecessary as you state that you approve it with the exception of the last paragraph. I believe that paragraph related to the payment of silver at San Francisco by drafts on New York.

Mr. Geo. W. Edelman, clerk, has called my attention to the payment of his salary. He entered upon his duties on the 5th day of October last; at $2,000 per year, the salary you fixed. There will be due him on the 31st inst. the sum of $478.26/100. I have also to call your attention to the request of Dr. Cobb and Torrey in regard to their salaries - as to when they begin and how they are to be paid. I have the honor to be
Your faithful Servant,
James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie.
Sec. of the Treasury.

Snowden. the compensation of Drs. Torrey
& Cobb was not intended at the
time of their appointment to commence
until the Assay Office should
go into operation & as it is not certain
the appropriation will hold out, nor
~~the~~ known distinctly what services
these officers may meanwhile perform

James Ross Snowden
Director U.S. Mint
Philadelphia
Dec. 28th 1853,

Acknowledgement of the receipt of the Secretary's letter of 27th inst,

Salary of Mr Geo. H. Edelman, clerk, and that of Drs. Cobb & Torrey, of the New York Assay Office,

McClean
M – Nos –
~~[illegible]~~ Jany 2d/54 –

Pay Mr Edelman out of appropriation for assay Office. Inform Mr

O & H

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Dec. 28. 1853.

Sir,

Prof. Booth has handed me the enclosed letter with a request that I should transmit it to you.

Some samples of a proposed new cent, were struck to-day. The *obverse* of the die used is the same as the Qr. Eagle, the *reverse* is an *extempore* die got up by the Coiner. I enclose a few pieces for your inspection.

If such a coin should be adopted it will be necessary to have the devices upon it very dissimilar to these specimens in order that it may not be mistaken for other coins.

My present impressions are adverse to this German Silver Coin, but I will examine the subject further, before giving any definite opinion, if required.

I have the honor to be
with great respect
Your faithful Servant,
James Ross Snowden
Director

Hon. Jas. Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington

Philad^{a} 28 Dec. 1853

Dear Sir

Interest for another & no personal consideration induces me to addreſs you in relation to the appointment of an Aſsistant in my Department, which I learn from the Director, you have for the present postponed. When I first was appointed to the Office of Melter & Refiner in the Mint, I was solicited to ask for an Aſsistant, but upon the representations of the Officers, that the duties did not require it, I refused to ask for one. The increasing influx of California Gold, however, rendered it imperative that Aſsistance should be afforded me, & accordingly Mr J. H. Taylor was employed with the pay of a workman. The manifest disparity between his actual position & his wages induced the Directors, Dr Eckert & Col. Snowden, to advance his pay to that of a Foreman. I preſsed upon the late Director Dr Eckert the propriety of soliciting the appointment of Mr Taylor as a Regular Aſsistant, which he acknowledged & urged it upon the late Government about a year since; but altho' it was promised the appointment was not made. The reasons for his appointment were, that the aid of an aſsistant was absolutely called for; that he should be a responsible officer, since all the bullion paſsed through his hands that the nature of his duties called for a person of liberal education, & yet he received the name & pay of a workman; that Mr Taylor had actually been performing all the duties of a responsible Officer during several years, & yet had only advanced so far as to be regarded as a Foreman.

Not being an Officer, Mr T. never took an official oath nor gave security, & yet in 1852 about $90 millions had passed through his hands. By having so efficient an aid as he has been, I have been enabled to carry out measures, by which the wastage account & general expenses of my Dept have been diminished by a sum not less than $50,000 pr. an. at the present rate of working compared with former operations. At this moment I am making alterations in the Furnaces, by which $\frac{5}{6}$ of the fuel, or more than $5000 pr. an. will be saved. & I could not have undertaken these operations unless I had had an assistant in whose capacity & fidelity I could place the utmost confidence.

There is one reason for the appointment of an Assistant, which I acknowledge to be selfish on my part, altho' perfectly legitimate. I feel a hesitation in leaving the Mint for a single day, because I cannot leave in my place an authorised representative. In consequence of this, I have been absent from the City of Phila but a few weeks altogether in four years.

In relation to Mr Taylor himself, the appointment was promised him by Dr Patterson several years since, as soon as the business should warrant it, and this has been the case during three years past. I can assure you that his appointment would gratify a large body of the most influential Democrats of our City, for he has always been a very active member of the party & his father Robert Taylor, Esq. has long been an influential democrat. Mr T. is a nephew of Judge Kane. It is however chiefly on acct. of his real worth, & the importance of my having an Assistant that I urge the subject upon your further consideration. Since Depositors have their option where to refine their gold, it is yet uncertain whether all the gold will be refined in N. Y., & certainly the coinage will be executed in Phila & this involves the delicate operation of melting. Besides, the issue of Silver ~~bul~~ coin will probably continue many years from our Mint. There is therefore every reason to expect a heavy business at our Mint for a long period to come.

Dr Cobb desires to have Mr T. as his Assistant, and if the latter is willing to go, I shall be glad to favour his appointment, however I may regret severance from one who has been so faithful & is in every respect suited to me as Assistant. But I would greatly prefer it & so would Mr T., that he should receive an appointment among his friends, if you can do so consistently with your views of propriety. I know that the views of our Director coincide with mine.

I trust, dear Sir, that you will excuse my having so long trespassed upon your time, & hope that the view I have presented may meet your approbation. It was only to do justice to Mr J. that I have presented many of the above facts, & solicit your convenient attenti to them.

The orders for apparatus for the N.Y. Assay Off are being executed & will be ready in due time.

Our friend the Chief Coiner has prepared a die merely to test the metal which I propose for the cent piece. I wish the pieces ~~the~~ to be made thicker & to have a different device, so that even in the dark, they could not be mistaken for a dime. They will wear well, bett than the 3-cent piece. We shall send on pieces as soon as they present any point of interest in relation to the new coinage.

I have the honour to be, dear Sir
yours with great Respe

Ja C Booth
Melter & Refiner
U.S. Mint

Hon. James Guthrie
Secy Treasy - U.S.
Washington
D.C.

Mint of the United States
Philada. Dec. 29. 1853

Sir,

The overture which I made, with your Concurrence to artists and other persons of Taste to present designs for the silver Coinage has resulted in the presentation of many drawings and several medallions. The result however is not as satisfactory as we had reasons to expect. Although some of them have merit yet I am not prepared to recommend any of them as suitable for Coinage.

The three that have the most merit in my opinion, in which the other officers of the Mint Concur, are as follows

Drawings by Mr. Nahl of San Francisco. Cal.
Drawings by Mr. Chapin of Newark New Jersey
Medallions by Mr. Barber of Philada. Penna.

In Compliance with the last paragraph of the Circular issued – a copy of which is enclosed – I propose with your sanction to allow each of these gentlemen thirty dollars. I send the designs to you per Messrs. Adams & Co. express. for your examination. If you desire to see the others that were presented I will send them to you.

Although the designs presented are not satisfactory yet we might with propriety and, I should hope, advantage make the offer contemplated in my letter of the 19th of July last, and give such artists as see proper, an opportunity to execute a pair of half dollar dies with such designs as they may deem appropriate, with the promise to give such compensation as we may think proper to the maker of one or more of such dies.

Some of our best artists did not compete for the designs, but I have reason to believe that such of them as are connected with die-sinking would compete for the making of the best dies. At all events I should like to make this further effort to improve our coinage, if it meets with your approbation.

I may add that I postponed any action upon the designs offered, in order to give our citizens in the most distant part of our country or such as were residing abroad an opportunity to compete.

I have the honor to be
with great respect
Your faithful servant
James Ross Snowden
Director.

Hon. James Guthrie
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City

CIRCULAR:

Mint of the United States,

PHILADELPHIA, July 26TH, 1853.

The Director of the Mint, under the sanction of the 7th section of the act of March 3, 1853, authorising new devices for the silver coinage of the United States, and with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, invites the co-operation of Artists, Engravers, and other persons of taste to aid him in effecting that object, and requests such as may be so disposed to forward to him, before the first day of October next, such designs as they may deem appropriate to that coinage.

The law having imposed no restrictions in relation to the devices, the Director abstains from advancing any suggestions on the subject, it being his wish that the designer should be entirely untrammelled in the exercise of his judgment and skill.

An impartial examination will be made of the designs which may be furnished in accordance with this request; and for those three which shall appear best fitted to the object in view, a competent and liberal remuneration will be made.

JAMES ROSS SNOWDEN,
DIRECTOR.

102

Mint of the U States
Philad Dec 31. 1853

Hon James Guthrie
Secy of the Treasury

Sir

By order of the Director I send you the enclosed a statement

Very Respy
Your obt Svt
Geo K [illegible]
Paying Clk

Denomination of Coin on hand at the U.S. Mint Phila Dec 31st 1853

Gold		
Double Eagles	$ 120,000	
Eagles	80,000	
Half Do	75,000	
Quarter Do	200.105	
Dollars	288,839	
Bars	318,092,35	
Remnants &c	11,781,00	$ 1.093,817,35
Silver		
Dollars	$ 12,195	
Half Do	172.500	
Quarter Do	203,600	
Dimes	512.700	
Half Do	294,300	
Remnants &c	340.21	$ 1.195,635,21
Total Amt Bal on hand Phila Dec 31. 1853		$ 2,289,452,56

U.S. Mint
Philad Dec 31. 1853

Mint of the U States
Philad Dec 30. 1853

Hon James Guthrie
Secy of the Treasy

Sir

By order of the Director I send you the enclosed statement

Very Respy
Your obt Sert
Geo K Childs
Paying Clk

Denomination of Coins on hand at the U S Mint Phila Dec 31st 1853

Gold

Double Eagles	$ 120,000	
Eagles	80,000	
Half Eos	75,000	
Quarter Eos	200.105	
Dollars	288,839	
Bars	318,092,35	
Remnants &c	11,781,00	$ 1.093,817,35

Silver

Dollars	$ 12,195	
Half Eos	172.500	
Quarter Eos	203,600	
Dimes	512.700	
Half Eos	294.300	
Remnants &c	340.21	$ 1.195,635,21
Total Amt Bal on hand Phila Dec 31. 1853		$ 2,289,452,56

U. S. Mint
Philad Dec 31. 1853

Branch Mint. U. S.
New-Orleans May 14th 1853.

Sir,

I have the Honor to inform you that I have on this day entered the duty of my office, as Superintendant of the Branch Mint. U. S. at New-Orleans.

Most respectfully,

Chs. Bienvenu
Superintendent.

James Guthrie.
Secretary of the Treasury.
Washington.

Branch Mint, U.S. New Orleans.
Treasurer's Office, May 18th 1853.

Sir.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Communications dated, respectively, April 15th 26th 3d & 10th of May.

In the first and second letters I am instructed to receive $900,000.00/100 in Silver – purchased by the Department for the bullion fund of this Br. Mint. Of this sum I have received $500,000.00/100. And in Compliance with the directions Contained in your letter of the 10th inst. I have charged the bullion fund and Credited the Treasurer of the U.S. the value of the Silver deposited Calculated at the rate of $1.21 per ounce gross.

It may not be improper, here to observe, that being in daily expectation of the appearance of my successor in office I shall decline receiving silver for Coinage, under the act of February 21st & other than purchases by the Secretary of the Treasury, referred to above, And not to add to the intricacy of my accounts, the bullion already received I shall hold in my vaults in readiness for a transfer to the new Treasurer,

altho'

although I am painfully aware of the great inconvenience to the public resulting from this course and the delay in issuing the new Coins.

I am particularly anxious to be relieved by or before the close of the present quarter and end of the fiscal year by the appointment of some one to receive my office, and respectfully beg the Department will inform me if I am to be succeeded before or after that period — In the latter case I shall proceed in preparations for the distribution of the new Silver Coinage. Should I receive no intelligence on this point I shall be constrained to withold from our distressed community the Coins so much needed by the scarcity of small change, in order that the settlement of my official accounts may be more speedily effected.

I am, Sir,
with great respect
Your obt. Servt.
Wm. De Buys
Treas.

Hon. James Guthrie
Secretary of the Treasury.

Private

New Orleans 8th July 1851.

My dear Sir,

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the eceipt of your valued favor of 24th Ulto. and feel thankful or the interest you take to have the Salary of my porter increased t the amount suggested in my letter of 4th Ulto. — I agree ith you as to the inconsistency of allowing the porter 1000 — when the clerk gets but $ 900 — the case however, s now changed, as the Salary of the latter is increased t $1500 — from the 1st inst. — therefore I trust that if the ncrease required cannot be made retrospective, it will be fixed at $ 1000 — from the commencement of the resent fiscal year — We are now out of debt and n future shall be enabled to pay all deposites in cash as soon as the assay is made. We shall now devote urselves to the coinage of small coins which are much needed in the community, as well as in all the Western States, which are supplied from this section of the Country —

We are making rapid progress in the coinage of the 3 cent pieces, and have already put a considerable amount in circulation — No instructions have yet been received from the Dept. as to the distribution to be made of this coin to the Assistant Treasurers and depositaries in this section of the Country. — As instructions were given to the Philadelphia Mint in regard to this matter, we have been expecting to hear from the Department in relation thereto —

I now beg to call your attention to another matter — ometime since Mr. Wickes, late Treasurer of the Mint, presented for payment, an account for services rendered by him in making out the accounts and writing up the Books of the office, to the da it was transferred to me — An account was also presented by Mr. Martin G. Kennedy, late chief clerk of the Mint, who assisted him in preparing said accounts — Mr. McAlpin, is I believe, satisfied that the claims are just but does not like to assume the responsibility of having them paid without the authorization of the Secretary of the Treasury, to whom he has written on the subject, but has yet received no answer,

When I took possession of the office there was an understanding with Mr. Wicks that the accounts should be prepared by the clerks of the Mint, but we were so overwhelmed with business, they could scarcely keep pace with the current work of the day, so that no assistance was rendered to him — Under the circumstances, and it being important that Mr. Wickes' accounts should be transmitted, without delay, for settlement, he was obliged to undertake the work himself, in which, to my certain knowledge, he was engaged, without intermission, for two months, and during the first month, he was assisted by Mr. Kennedy —

As those gentlemen were constantly engaged in attending to the public business during the time specified in their accounts, I consider they are entitled to compensation, and that they should be paid out of the Contingent fund of the Mint — Entertaining these views, I have not hesitated to write you in regard to this matter, and to request that you will authorize the payment of said accounts, which will be but an act of Justice to the parties interested, and it will be a source of great gratification to me.

I am very truly
Your friend
Wm. DeBuys

Wm. L. Hodge Esqr.
Washington City
D. C.

private

New Orleans, July 8. 1851.

Dear Sir,

Permit me to call your attention to a letter addressed by me this day to the Secretary of the Treasury, in regard to certain claims of Mr. Martin G. Kennedy and myself, against the Branch Mint in this City, for services rendered in making out the accounts and writing up the Books, after the transfer of my Office was made to my successor.

As the letter contains a full statement of all the circumstances, it is unnecessary to repeat them here, I would however, remark, that both the Supt. and the Treasurer of the Mint, are satisfied of the justness of the claims, and that the former has written twice to the Secretary of the Treasury on the subject, but has received no reply to his letters, which has induced me to address him myself. –

Believing that you will agree in opinion with these gentlemen, and feeling assured of your friendly disposition to aid me in this matter, I have not hesitated to write you on the subject, and to beg that you will authorize the Superintendent to pay the amount out of the Contingent fund of the Mint.

With much regard,

Your Obt. Servt.

J. A. Waikes

Wm. L. Hodge, Esqr.
Washington City
D.C

Branch Mint U.S.
New Orleans July 19th 1853

Hon. James Guthrie
Secretary of the Treasury
Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 9th inst & telegraphic despatch of the 12th. In reply to the former I have to state that I have no means of ascertaining the species or genuineness of the Silver Bullion received by my predecessor Genl De Buys, other than by assay report a copy of which has been forwarded to your office, to it I would respectfully refer.

In all cases of assay the bullion is previously run into Ingots, which was the case with regard to the coin received by my predecessor previous to my entering on the duties of my office.

With regard to the purchase of Silver coin your instructions appear to differ somewhat from those furnished by the Director of the Mint at Philadelphia, and leave me in doubt as to the course to be pursued — Your directions are "to receive no silver without having it

Over

previously assayed and ascertained to be of the standard quality established by the last annual assay of the Mint" — His instructions of the 31st March & 3rd May 1853 are as follows, "For Silver coins of the U States other than the three cent pieces the price paid will be $1.21 pr an Oz. gross &c — "I may add in this connection that in "fixing a uniform price for U States coin of all standards except (3 c pieces) the fact was not overlooked that an advantage was given to sellers of coin issued anterior to 1837. It seemed politic nevertheless to allow this advantage, as we shall thereby more certainly secure the recoinage of all outstanding issues —

The doubt left in my mind was not as to whose directions should be observed, but as the context of your letter seemed more particularly to refer to Mexican and foreign coin, I have not felt authorised to depart from the instructions of the Director. with regard to the purchase of American Coin until more particularly advised on the subject by you — The standard of Am. coins previous to 1837 is 892 one thousandths That of Am coins subsequent to 1837 is 900 one thousandths. My understanding of the Directors instructions is that these coins are to be purchased by

over

weight regardleſs of their standard fineneſs unleſs the old coin should prove to be of lower standard than 892 thousandths & the subsequent coinage should fall short of 900 one thousandths. We are at present receiving Mexican and other foreign coin at standard fineneſs as established by the annual aſsay of the mint, to wit at 900 one thousandths in conformity with your instructions of 9th July

Very respectfully
James Brewer
Treasurer

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U. S. Branch Mint, New Orleans,
Treasurer's Office, July 26. 1857.

Dear Sir,

Permit me to request that in your interview with the Secretary of the Treasury, you will urge upon him the propriety of authorizing an increase of the wages of the two porters in my Office. – The porter in the weighing room now receives $70. per month, and the porter to the Subtreasury $60. – I have on two occasions made application to the Secretary, for the increase of the latter's wages to $1000. per annum, but Mr. Corwin being absent, the Acting Secretary did not feel at liberty to authorize it. – The wages of the two porters should, I think, be [illegible] and very responsible. – They are both honest and deserving men, with families to support, and the amount they now receive is scarcely sufficient to enable them to do so. – I trust you will do all in your power to have this matter arranged as desired, and that we shall soon hear that you have been successful.

I remain very truly Yours,
Wm. [illegible]
Treasurer

R. M. McAlpin, Esqr.
Supt. Br. Mint, N. O.

U. S. Branch Mint, New-Orleans,
August the 5th 1853.

Sir,

I herewith enclose a letter addressed to me by the Treasurer of the Branch Mint, at New-Orleans. I am fully aware of the importance of retaining the present Porter of this Mint, George Clammann, who has been here since the Mint was established. I am satisfied that much delay would be caused in the deliveries of Coins and bullion now being made daily in the Treasurer's office, if it should become necessary to appoint to that office an unexperienced man. I have thought proper to increase the salary of the present porter from $70 to $100, per month, (which price is offered to him by several Banks in New-Orleans), *provided* it meet your approval, which if sanctioned by you, please do me the favour to signify as early as your convenience will permit.

Very respectfully
your most obt. Servt.
Chs. Bienvenu
Supt.

Hon. James Guthrie
Secretary of Treasury.
Washington. —

New Orleans Augt 5th 1853

C. Bienvenu Esq
Supt. Br. M. N.O.

Sir

Several weeks since I communicated the fact to you that the porter of this Mint had notified me that the Citizens Bank had offered him a salary of $100. per month to act as porter in that institution and that unless his salary here was increased to that sum he would feel himself obliged to accept the proposition of the Bank. This morning he informs me that he will not continue with me longer than the 1st Sept, unless his salary is raised to $100. per month by that time — You are fully aware how very important he is here and how very difficult it would be to replace him. He has been acting in his present capacity since this Mint was established and is thoroughly acquainted with his duties which are difficult and arduous, requiring skill and integrity. At the present time especially we require his services. We are daily receiving large amounts

of Silver coins which are to be examined
as to its species and genuineness and it would
be difficult to find a man so thoroughly
acquainted with the species and genuineness
of Coin – I consider the office of Porter in
many respects as important as any other
in my department and as from my in-
formation on this subject, this man
has never made a mistake in the per-
formance of his duties I would be much
pleased if his salary could be increased
to $100. which you are aware is paid to
all the porters of the Banks in this
city – Trusting therefore that you
will meet my wishes in this respect
I subscribe myself

Your obt Servt
James F. Bruner
Treasurer U.S. Br. Mt. N.O.

Branch Mint U.S. New Orleans
Treasurers Office Augst 18th 1853

Sir

I have issued Certificates in favor of the following parties for the difference between gross and standard Weight of deposits made by them to your Credit in Compliance with your instructions dated Augst 2nd They bear the same date & number as those issued on on Standard Weight

No 31^2	Judson & Co	112.69
33^2	M Morgan agt	✓ 323 78 ✓
34^2	Corning & Co	✓ 249 33 ✓
40^2	M Morgan	✓ 189 17 ✓
42^2	Corning & Co	✓ 191.06 ✓
58^2	Bebe & Co	98.72

Very respectfully
Your Obdt Servt
James Brewer
Treasurer

To
Hon James Guthrie
Secy Treasury

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Original

No 33d

Branch Mint U States New Orleans
Treasurer's Office July 21st 1853

I Certify that H. A. Rathbone, President of the Canal and Banking Co is entitled to Three hundred & twenty three 79/100 Dollars, on account of M Morgan agent of New York City, the difference between gross weight and standard weight of deposits to Credit of the Treasurer of the united States, per Certificate bearing same date and number For which I have signed in duplicate

Doll 323 79/100

James Brewer
Treasurer

The Secy of the U.S. Treasury will please issue his Dft for the above to the order of M Morgan agt and forward to him at New York

H A Rathbone
N.O. Canal & Bk'g Co Prest

N.O. Canal & Bk'g Co Prest

Original

No 40^2

Branch Mint U States New Orleans
Treasurer's Office July 23rd 1853

I Certify that H. H. Rathbone President of the Canal and Banking Co is entitled to One hundred & eighty nine 17/100 Dollars on account of M Morgan of New York City the difference between gross weight and standard weight of deposite to Credit of the Treasurer of the United States per Certificate of same date & number.

For which I have signed in duplicate

Dolls 189 17/100

James Brewer
Treasurer

The Secy of the U S Treasury will please issue his Dft for the above order of M. Morgan and forward to him at N York H. H. Rathbone Prest
N. O. Canal & Bkg Co

U. S. Branch Mint N. Orleans
Sept 13th 1853

Sir

Your letter of the 2d Sept was received approving the appointment of O B Bradfute as asst Treasurer's clerk with instructions not to allow his salary antecedent to his taking the oath of Office—

I regret very much the instructions accompanying your approval of this gentleman's appointment as I am sure the omission to take the oath at the time of entering upon the discharge of the duties of the Office was through no fault or wilful neglect ~~of~~ on his part to comply in every respect with the law— At the time of entering upon the duties of my Office I had no means of knowing what the law required relative to the appointment and qualifications, of my clerks. There was not an act of Congress relative to the Mint and Independent Treasury to be found in this establishment and I had received no instructions from the Department at Washington relative thereto although in my letter to the Solicitor of the Treasury dated June 13th I particularly requested to be furnished with forms & instructions with regard to these appointments I also applied to the Superintendent of this Mint to procure the laws for me governing this establishment and was informed by him that they had been applied for and were daily expected to arrive, but which did not come to hand until about the 1st Sept; previous to which date however in reading over the correspondence between the

Treasury department and my predecessor in office I found a letter addressed to him on this subject from W. L. Hodge acting Secretary of the Treasury informing him that the law required the Clerks of the Mint department who had been appointed by him sometime previous should give bond and take the oath of office and it was some two months after their appointment that the law in this respect was complied with— Their salaries however were not withheld from them on this account. Upon making the discovery I immediately required my Clerks in addition to the bonds which they had furnished to take the oath of office and it was with great difficulty and after much delay that they were enabled to find an officer before whom this oath could be taken owing to the adjournment of our Courts and the absence of every one whose engagements permitted to flee from the City on account of the fearful epidemic with which we have been scourged since the latter part of June— I feel assured, that when you are informed that my clerks are dependent upon their salaries for subsistence and that some of them have families to care for, that they have been constantly and dilligently engaged in the labours of the offices to which they have been assigned, since the 7th July last, in the midst of an epidemic which has clothed our city in mourning and ma every heart feel desolate, added to the fact that they had not the means of knowing wha was necessary to be done in the first place or of doi what was neceſsary after it was known until after much time had elapsed, that you will not refuse to allow them to be paid their salaries from the date on which they entered upon their official duties — The money has been appropriated by Congreſs for this purpose the services have been rendered which were contemplated and if every thing has not been done which ought to have been done we had no means here of knowing any better — In regard however to Mr Bradfute I have examined the law very carefully and can find nothing which makes it incumbent on him either to give bond or take an oath before entering upon the duties of his office — He filled the same office from the time of its creation in 1846 until Mr Fillmores administration and never took an official oath nor required to take one before. Please be so kind as to answer this immediately so that I may get your answer before the 1st Oct when the salaries will be due and my quarterly accounts must be rendered; and excuse the length to which I have been compelled to write on this occasion —

Most respectfully
Your obt Servt
James Brewer
asst Treasurer U. States

Hon James Guthrie
Secretary of the
Treasury U. States

WASHINGTON AND NEW ORLEANS
TELEGRAPH LINE.

Murphy, Print

The following Communication was received

at o'clock, min., M.

Dated New Orleans 3rd Sept 1853 o'clock, min., M.

For Hon James Guthrie

Coined from 7th July to 1st August 1853 of new silver coinage half dollars two ninety two thousand quarter dollars, two hundred three thousand dimes ninety three thousand, half dimes twelve thousand total dollars six hundred thousand out of which a balance of two hundred thousand dollars remains on hand for distribution.

James Brewer

Collect $6.50 Charged

Dr The United States deposite, in a/c With James
for Money deposited at the Mint for Paying

			Dollars	Cts
1853				
Novr	29	To Silver Coinage for Transfer draft No 468 to the order of the Asst Treasurer US. St Louis Paid in Silver Coins	10000	00
	31	" Balance to new acct	386557	14
			396557	14

Brewer Treasurer Branch Mint U.S. New Orleans Cr
depositors under Mint act of 1837.

			Dollars	Cts
1853 Sept	31	By Balance per acct rend this date	3277074	88
Nov	31	" Silver purchas, for amount Silver bullion purchased of Sundry persons as detailed in Abstract No 13. Certificates issued therefor Numbered as follows. 543. 552, 567. 570. 571. 574 575. 580 597, 600, 605, 614, 626, 633, 641, 642, 657, 663 669, 671 675, 679, 685, 687 695, 702, 704, 713. 569,007 $\frac{65}{100}$ Ounces gross $1 $\frac{21}{100}$	688499	26
			3965574	14

Branch Mint of the U.S. New Orleans
Treasurers Office Novr 30th 1853

James Brewer
Treasurer

Report of the Superintendent of the Branch Mint of the U. States, for the Month of November 1853, in accordance with the 12th section of the "Act to provide for the better organization of the Treasury, and for the collection, safe-keeping, transfer and disbursement of the public revenue," approved August 6th, 1846.

1853			DOLLARS.	CTS.
Oct	31	Balance to credit the Treasurer U. States, this date, for the use of the Public Revenue,	1.260953	47
		Amount received since,	398503	59
			1.659457	06
		Amount paid since,	215493	75
Nov	30	Balance to credit Treasurer United States, this date, for the use of the Public Revenue		
		viz: In Gold Coins,	1.443963	31
		Silver do.		

Branch Mint of the United States,
New-Orleans, Nov 30 1853

Chs Bienvenu
Superintendent.

Report of the Superintendent of the Branch Mint of the U. States, for the Month of Decembre 1853, in accordance with the 12th section of the "Act to provide for the better organization of the Treasury, and for the collection, safe-keeping, transfer and disbursement of the public revenue," approved August 6th, 1846.

1853			DOLLARS.	CTS.
Nov	30	Balance to credit the Treasurer U. States, this date, for the use of the Public Revenue,	1443963	31
		Amount received since,	266699	66
			1.710662	97
		Amount paid since,	696161	91
Dec	31	Balance to credit Treasurer United States, this date, for the use of the Public Revenue		
		viz: In Gold Coins,	1.014501	06
		Silver do.		

Branch Mint of the United States,
New-Orleans, Dec 31 1853

Chs Bienvenu
Superintendent.

Copy

Statement of Deposits & Coinage

At the Branch Mint New Orleans during the month of December 1853.

Gold Deposits.

Foreign Coins,	$2,560,46
" Bullion,	3.421,28
U.S. Bullion (Cal.)	262,717,23
Value of Gold,	$268,698,97

Silver Deposits.

Foreign Coins,	$9.571.77
" Bullion	7.852,29
U.S. Coins,	12,915,79
U.S. Bullion (Cal.)	1.862,10
Value of Silver,	$32,201.95

Total value of Deposits, $300,900,92

Coinage Executed.

Denomination,	Number of Pieces	Value,	Total value.
Gold,			
Double Eagles,	6,500	$130,000	
Eagles,	12,000	120,000	
			$250,000
Silver,			
Quarter Dollars,	288,000	$72,000	
Half Dimes,	300,000	15,000	
			$87,000

Total value of Coinage, $337,000.

Copy

Statement of the condition of the Branch Mint at New Orleans at the close of the week ending 31st Dec 1853.

Coinage Account Dr

Balance in Treasury at last Statement		$168,381,89
Add Coinage since received in Gold Coins	$175,000	
" " " " Silver Coins	15,000	190,000.00
Transferred from Contingent fund to Cr Profits & Loss Act		7,212,97
Total means for the Week		$365,594,86

Coinage Account Cr

Gold Deposits paid during the Week	$178,022,26
Silver Bullion purchsd by Treasr & paid during the Week	105,914,24
Assay Coins reserved	178,00
Bal~~ance~~ on hand	81,485,36
	$365,594,86

Bullion Account Cr

Amt paid Transfer draft No 467 from Treasr U.S. Mint Philadelphia in Bullion & Ingots	$1000,000,00

Bullion Account Dr

Outstanding deposits assayed & payable but not demanded	Gold $31,283,09 Silver $18,122,83 $	49,405,92
Estimated Bullion to be accounted for to private Depositrs		49,405,92
Add debt to U.S. for Bullion fund		3,078,876,21
Total debt on Bullion Account		$3,128,282,13
Deduct Balance in Treasury as above		81,485,36
Difference being total Bullion in course of Manf		$3,046,796,77

Branch Mint U.S. New Orleans, Treasurers
Office Dec, 31st 1853,

James Brewer
Treasurer

In conformity with the Act of 4th March 1853, Chap: 97. I have the honor to present a Quarterly Statement of the Expenditures of the Branch Mint at Charlotte N. Ca for the Quarter ending 30th June 1853.

1853,		
June 30	For Contingent & Incidental Expenses & pay of Watchman	716. 05
	" Wages of Workmen	702. 00
	" Salaries of Officers & Clerk	1500. 00
		2.918. 05

I have the honor to be
Very respectfully
Your Obt. Servt
G. W. Caldwell
Superintendent

Honble James Guthrie
Secretary of Treasury
Washington City

In conformity with the Act of 4th March 1853, chap: 97, I have the honor to present a Quarterly Statement of the Expenditures of the Branch Mint at Charlotte N. Ca for the Quarter ending 30th September 1853

1853			
Septemr 30	For Contingent & Incidental Expenses & pay of Watchmen	648.	91
	" Wages of Workmen	702.	00
	" Salaries of Officers & Clerk	1500.	00
		$ 2.850.	91

I have the honor to be
very respectfully
Your Obt. Servt
G. W. Caldwell
Superintendent

Honble James Guthrie
Secretary of Treasury
Washington City

Copy

Statement of Deposits & Coinage

At Branch Mint Charlotte N.C. during December 1853.

Gold Deposits

U.S. Bullion from North Carolina $3,500,36

Coinage Executed

Half Eagles, Pieces 7,719. Val $38,595

In Conformity with the Act of 4th March 1853, chap: 97 I have the honor to present a Quarterly Statement of the Expenditures of the Branch Mint at Charlotte No Ca for the Quarter ending 31 Decemr 1853,

1853.			
December 31	For Contingent & Incidental Expenses & pay of Watchmen	469.	43
	" Wages of Workmen	702.	00
	" Salaries of Officers & Clerk	1500.	00
		$ 2.671.	43

I have the honor to be
Very respectfully
Your Ob. Servt
G W Caldwell
Superintendent

Honble James Guthrie
Secretary of Treasury
Washington City

224
~~221~~

U.S. Branch Mint
Dahlonega Ga. 23rd July 1853

Hon. James Guthrie
Secretary of the Treasury—

Sir—

My predecessor informs me that the practice, in reference to the Treasury drafts upon the depositaries at Savannah or Charleston furnished to pay the Officers & laborers at this Branch, had been to make a deposite of the drafts in some Bank, either in Augusta or Charleston, & then the Superintendent, in his individual character, would check out the amount as the demands of trade here might need funds at those points.

The object of this communication is to inquire whether or not the Department considers this arrangement allowable under the act of the 6th August 1846—Chap. 90— usually known as the Independent Treasury Act.

Very Respectfully
Your obt. Servt
J. M. Patton
Supt.

over

P.S. I will be much obliged, if you will have me informed, (not having received the acts of the last Congress) what amount of appropriation for Contingent expenses of this Branch is subject to be drawn.

I found the fencing around the building the balustrades to several of the stairways & the steps to the back entrances of the house, in a dilapidated Condition — and I wish to ascertain whether or not the appropriation, after deducting a sum sufficient to meet the regular and current expenses for material, fuel &c, will be sufficient to make the repairs needed for the protection of the public property.

Several of the pamphlets of the acts of Congress are missing — & I will be much obliged for the acts of the 2nd Session 30th Congress & the 1st do 32nd do.

8178
July 30/57
McKean

McKean

U. S. Branch Mint
Dahlonega Ga. 30th Septr. 1853

In conformity with the act of 4th March 1853, c 97, I have the honor to present a quarterly statement of the expenditures of this Branch for the Quarter ending this day — viz:

Incidental & contingent expenses & repairs	$ 945	89
Wages of workmen — — —	866	47
Salaries of Officers & clerk	1500	00
Total — $	3.312	36

I have the honor to be
Very Respectfully
Your obt. Servt.
J. M. Patton
Supt. & Treasr.

Hon. James Guthrie
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington City
D. C.

U S Branch Mint
Dahlonega 11 Octr /53

Hon. F Burt

Dr Sir

Julius M Patton Supt. of this Mint early in August addressed a letter on official business to Hon James Guthrie Secry of the Treasy and on the 12th Sept. made the usual requisition for the draught to meet the current expenses of the 3rd Qr of ordinary expendes and on 14th Sept. a communication on private business to neither of which has he had any reply. And under all the circumstances we are led to suspicion that the communications have been intercepted some where on the mail lines, Such must be the case if they have not been received which can be easily ascertained if you will do us the favor to call on and know of the Hon. Secry whether or not they have been received if not it is important that the Post Office department be informed of the facts that he may through the Special mail agents ferret out the abuses your compliance with this request I hope not very troublesome, will much oblige us

Yours Respectfully

John D Field pr Coiner

Copy

Statement of Deposits & Coinage

At the Branch Mint at Dahlonega Ga, during the Month of December 185

Gold Deposits,

From California	\$ 46.283,58
" Georgia	3.904.84
" S. Carolina	3,170.64
Total Value of deposits	\$ 53,359,06

Coinage Executed

Half Eagles, Pieces 9,254. Val \$46.27

Princeton N.J.
March 19th 1853

Sir,

The fifth section of the act making appropriations for the civil expenses, approved March 3d 1853 provides: "that, when private
"establishments shall be made to refine gold
"bullion, the Secretary of the Treasury, if he shall
"deem them capable of executing such work, is hereby
"authorized and required to limit the amount thereof,
"which shall be refined in the Mint at Philadelphia,
"from quarter to quarter, and to reduce the same
"progressively as such establishments shall be extended
"or multiplied so as eventually and as soon as may
"be, to exclude refining from the mint. &c"

The design of this provision was, as you can readily learn from the Hon. R. M. T. Hunter, Chairn of the Committee on Finance, to relieve the Mint and the Treasury, and to encourage *private refining* as a legitimate branch of chemical industry, by removing the *virtual prohibition*, which has heretofore existed by reason of the Government performing said refining at the mere cost of materials and labor on (See Act approved January 18. 1837), — without charge, therefore, to the owners of bullion for wastage, for wear and tear of apparatus, (including $200,000 @ $300,000 ~~in~~ of silver, kept for mixing with the gold), for interest on capital invested, or for advances, made at an expense to the U.S. Treasury of $400,000 per annum, interest at six per cent on a fund of Seven millions of dollars kept in the Mint, for the purpose of making said advan And which fund might, if liberated from detention, be employed for the redemption of public debt.

If the refining were performed by private refiner as is generally done in the Countries of Europe, there would be no need of keeping such a fund in the Min (which establishment could then coin as rapidly as might be desired, in small coins as well as large). Commercial exchanges based upon the legitimate use of private credit and integrity, would provi facilities to the gold industry, in lieu of those now exte by expensive advances without discount or interest from Treasury.

The importance of this subject can be presented to more fully and ably, as well as more fitly, by the

Hon. Mr Hunter, who is himself the originator of the measure to relieve the Treasury, by private refining, from the burthen now resting upon it. And to him, I beg leave to refer you for the financial views connected herewith.

It is my purpose and desire, in connexion with commercial gentlemen of New York, if we may be permitted to do so, immediately to put in operation in that City, the largest and best refinery in the world, - one capable of doing *promptly* all the work which might be required of it - (adapted to refine *five millions per week*, or more, and susceptible of *enlargement*). The refinery would be furnished with apparatus much more complete & perfect than that now used in the mint, and the chemical methods would also be superior. So that we would refine with profit, *at charges not exceeding those paid by the depositors at the mint*.

It would however be idle for individuals to attempt to pursue *any business* in continued competition and rivalry with the U. S. Government, working *at mere cost* and advancing to the extent of *millions of dollars without charge for discount or interest*.

If, therefore, the aforesaid provision is to be construed, as authorizing *merely*, that refining may be restricted from time to time at the Philadelphia Mint; — and as in nowise applicable to the refining in the assay office in New York, created by Sections 10 to 16 of the act aforesaid, — it would scarcely be wise or safe for private persons to invest capital in such an enterprize.

If, on the contrary, you can and will give m assurance, that you will construe and execute sa act, so as to foster and encourage, instead of, prohibiting private refining; and that you will limit and eventually exclude refining from the New York assay office, or even omit to put it in extensive operation therein, if I shall promptly establish a large and suitable refinery, — then we, will embark immediately in the enterprize.

Another consideration why refining should be exclu from the N. Y. assay office is that you will thereby avoid an investment of from two to three hundred thousand dollars for apparatus, including the silv for quartation, and the wear and tear thereof.

You will much oblige me by giving me a reply this at your earliest convenience. I know that your tim and attention are much engrossed, but this is a matter demanding action. And I am confident that, if allowed to proceed, I can have a refinery in operation within two month

Should you desire to confer with me, I wil be pleased to call upon you, at such time as you may indicate.

Very respectfully

Hon. James Guthrie Secy Treas.

R. S. McCulloh

THE SUN.

Purchase of Silver at the U. S. Mint.—The Treasurer of the U. S. Mint, at Philadelphia, gives notice that he is prepared to purchase silver coin and bullion, delivered at the Mint, on the following terms:

For Dollars of Mexico, Peru, Bolivia, Chili, Brazil (re-stamped) and Spain, for Francs, for Silver Coins of the United States, other than the three cents, the price paid will be $1 21 an ounce, gross. For Thalers of Sweden and Northern States of Germany, $1 01 an ounce. For Silver in Bars, $1 21 per each ounce, at standard fineness, (9-10ths) as determined on assay at the Mint. The payment will be made in gold coins or in silver coins of new emission, at the option of the seller. Parties furnishing silver to the Mint, according to the terms of this notice, will receive a preference in exchanges for the new silver coin according to the order of priority of their sales to the Mint. It is expected that an emission of new coinage will be made by the middle of April. The prices herein fixed will continue until further notiee.

Messrs. Adams & Co., whose Express reaches to every part of the country, have sent out large numbers of these circulars, and the result already has been that large amounts of silver have been sent forward, through them, to the Mint for recoining. The result, we hope, will be the increase of silver currency throughout the country.

A merchant thought that the assay office to be established in New York would to a great extent answer the purposes of a mint, at least so far as external commerce was concerned; that bullion with the United States assay stamp would be as good, if not better, for export to France and England, than American coined gold and silver. It was believed that the seignorage for the assay would amount to less than the transportation of the metals hence to Philadelphia. It was thought that the privilege accorded to any parties to turn assayers would not amount to much where United States assay offices exist, because, as the government propose to do the work for its actual cost, how can private individuals, even supposing they have the confidence of the public, do it for less? Immediately among the diggers in the gold region, it was thought the business might succeed.

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eral, shall be eight thousand dollars each.

Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That when private establishments shall be made to refine gold bullion, the Secretary of the Treasury, if he shall deem them capable of executing such work, is hereby authorized and required to limit the amount thereof which shall be refined in the mint at Philadelphia, from quarter to quarter, and to reduce the same progressively as such establishments shall be extended or multiplied, so as eventually, and as soon as may be, to exclude refining from the mint, and to require that every deposit of gold bullion made therein for coinage shall be adapted to said purpose, without need of refining: *Provided*, That no advances in coin shall be made upon bullion after this regulation shall be carried into effect except upon bullion refined, as herein prescribed.

Sec. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That an officer shall be appointed in the Department of State, ... Secretary of State, whose

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funds in the treasury: *Provided*, That the balance in the treasury shall not at any time be reduced below six millions of dollars.

Sec. 10. *And be it further enacted*, That the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized and required to establish in the city of New York an office for the receipt and for the melting, refining, parting, and assaying of gold and silver bullion and foreign coin, and for casting the same into bars, ingots, or discs. The Assistant Treasurer of the United States in New York shall be treasurer of the said assay office, and the Secretary of the Treasury shall, with the approbation and consent of the President of the United States, appoint such other officers and clerks, and authorize the employment of such assistants, workmen, and servants as shall be necessary for the proper conduct and management of the said office, and of the business pertaining thereto, at such compensation as shall be approved by the President: *Provided*, That the same shall not exceed that allowed for corresponding services under existing laws relating to the mint of the United States and its branches.

Sec. 11. *And be it further enacted*, That the owner or owners of any gold or silver bullion, in dust or otherwise, or of any foreign coin, shall be entitled to deposit the same in the said office, and the treasurer thereof shall give a receipt, stating the weight and description thereof, in the manner and under the regulations that are or may be provided in like cases or deposits at the mint of the United States, with the treasurer thereof. And such bullion shall without delay be melted, parted, refined, and assayed, and the net value thereof, and of all foreign coins deposited in said office, shall be ascertained, and the treasurer shall thereupon forthwith issue his certificate of the net value thereof, payable in coins of the same metal as that deposited, either at the office of the Assistant Treasurer of the United States in New York, or at the mint of the United States, at the option of the depositor, to be expressed in the certificate, which certificates shall be receivable at any time within sixty days from the date thereof, in payment of all debts due to the United States at the port of New York for the full sum therein certified. All gold or silver bullion and foreign coin deposited, melted, parted, refined, or assayed, as aforesaid, shall, at the option of the depositor, be cast in the said office into bars, ingots, or discs, either of pure metal or of standard fineness, (as the owner may prefer,) with a stamp thereon of such form and device as shall be prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury, accurately designating its weight and fineness: *Provided*, That no ingot, bar, or disc shall be cast of less weight than five ounces, unless the same be of standard fineness, and of either one, two, or three ounces in weight.

And all gold or silver bullion, and foreign coin, intended by the depositor to be converted into the coins of the United States, shall, as soon as assayed and its net value certified as above provided, be transferred to the mint of the United States under such directions as shall be made by the Secretary of the Treasury, and at the expense of the contingent fund of the nint, and shall there be coined.

And the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized, with the approval of the President of the United States, to make the necessary regulations for the adjustment of the accounts between the respective officers, upon the transfer of any bullion or coin between the assay office, the mint and assistant treasurer in New York.

Sec. 12. *And be it further enacted*, That the operations of melting, parting, refining, and assaying in the said office, shall be under the general directions of the Director of the Mint, in subordination to the Secretary of the Treasury; and it shall be the duty of the said director to prescribe such regulations, and to order such tests as shall be requisite to insure faithfulness, accuracy, and uniformity in the operations of the said office.

Sec. 13. *And be it further enacted*, That the laws of the United States for the government of the mint and its officers in relation to the receipt, payment, custody of deposits, and settlement of accounts, the duties and responsibilities of officers and others employed therein, the oath to be taken and the bond and sureties to be given by them (as far as the same may be applicable) shall extend to the assay office hereby established and to its officers, assistants, clerks, workmen, and others employed therein.

Sec. 14. *And be it further enacted*, That the same charges shall be made and demanded at the said assay office for refining, parting, casting into bars, ingots, or discs, and for alloy, as are, or shall be, made and demanded at the mint; and no other charges shall be made to depositors than by law are authorized to be made at the mint; and the amount received from the charges hereby authorized shall be accounted for and appropriated for defraying the contingent expenses of the said office.

Sec. 15. *And be it further enacted*, That the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to procure by rent, lease, or otherwise, a building or apartments in the city of New York, suitable for the operations of said office, unless he shall be of opinion that suitable apartments in the customhouse in that city may be assigned for this purpose. And he is also hereby authorized and directed to procure the necessary machinery and implements for the carrying on the operations and business of the said office.

Sec. 16. *And be it further enacted*, That the salary of the assistant treasuarer of the United States in New York, from and after the time that the said office shall be opened and in operation, shall be six thousand dollars per annum, instead of the sum now allowed.

Sec. 17. *And be it further enacted*, That under

Report on Mr McCulloh's letter

Mr McCulloh proposes to establish in the city of New York, a very extensive Refinery of the Precious Metals, *provided* that some assurance be given him, that the business of efining in the Assay Office to be established at New York, shall be restricted on the principles laid down in the fifth section of the civil appropriation bill.

The fifth section ~~seems to contemplate~~ provides for the gradual abandonment of the business of refining at the Philadelphia Mint. But there is nothing in the sections referring to the intended assay office at New York, which shews that Congress intended that ~~the~~ refining should not be, a full part of its usiness.

By the 10th Section, the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized and *required* to establish in the city of New York, an office for the receipt and for the melting, *fining*, parting, and assaying of gold and silver bullion d foreign coin." ~~These different processes are so closely connected, at to carry them on in different buildings will add greatly the expense.~~

Congress having in the fifth section of the bill, given its sanction to the creation of private establishments for refining gold, there was little reason left for establishing a public assay office at New York. Individuals could, no doubt, do this business cheaper than it can be done by Government. But the law ~~leaves~~ ~~no discretion~~ imposes the duty on, the President and the Secretary of establishing such assay office,

THE AMERICAN EXCHANGE BANK.

New-York, April 28th 1853

Sir

Allow me to enquire how soon we may expect an assay office to be established in this City. I have been obliged to send to the Mint at Phil.a this day $600.000 of gold dust, as well as about the same amount a few days since, and expect to receive about the same amount every fortnight, for the want of the assay office here, we are deprived of the advantages, of the recent law of Congress besides subjecting ourselves to very considerable expences for transportation to and from Philad.a

There is another subject to which I desire to call your attention, We have for a long period sent large amounts of gold dust to the Mint for coinage, which contained a very considerable amount of Silver- for which the Mint would pay us only in Gold, We applied to the Mint for the Silver, and were refused, we now enquire whether we cannot receive the Silver extracted from our former deposits of gold dust I am very Resp.y

V. P. Scot

D. Leavitt Prest

Hon.d James Guthrie
Secy of the Treasury U.S.
Washington

Custom House, New York
Collector's Office May 11th 1853.

Sir

Agreeably to your request I have taken a view of the "Merchants Exchange" this morning — It is not in my opinion as well calculated in its interior arrangements, for a Custom House, as the building we at present occupy — In respect to the contiguity of our larger rooms, we have the advantage of the Exchange — nor is there as many there of the required size, as we have in the Custom House; but there is perhaps ~~[illegible]~~ three times as much space inclosed within its four Walls as we can boast of — The interior of the Exchange is cut up into lanes, alleys and byways, in order to give access to the hundred smaller Offices, from the rent of which its revenues accrue — The division walls appear to be of thick masonry, not easily and perhaps not safely to be removed — Without a great outlay of money and time, it appears to me it could not be rendered as convenient as our present location — always with the proviso that it has three times as much room (divided or cut up into rooms) the want of which is our crying evil — If a thoroughly fire proof building be required for the

Custom House, the U. S. Bonded Ware House in B
way is of course ruled out, it having wooden
and plank floors — in fact I know of no othe
buildings in the City, which are entirely fire proof except
Exchange and the Custom House — I am of opini
that an addition to our present building would be the
practicable and proper, if it were deemed the m
expedient, in an attempt to relieve our sufferings for wa
more room — Very respectfully

Your Obdt Ser

C P Clinch

Hon G. C. Bronson
Collector &c &c

Custom House New York
Collector's Office May 12. 1853.

Sir,

On receipt of your letter of the 10th instant I requested Mr. Clinch, one of my deputies, to examine the Exchange to see whether it would answer for the accommodation of the Custom House. His report is enclosed, and I concur in the result at which he has arrived. The building is not a convenient one for any purpose, and I think it would not answer for the business of the Custom House.

I have set on foot some inquiries in relation to a building for the Assay office; but they are not of a very definite character, for the reason that I am not informed how large a building will be necessary, nor what must be its construction as to rooms, strength and the like, nor whether it must be fire proof. May I ask you for information on these heads; also whether you propose to purchase or hire the building; and if to be hire for what term of years.

I have reason to believe that the property owned by the Bank of the State of New York an the Bank of Commerce, adjoining the Cust House on the east, which, with an alley no common to the Custom House and the first mentioned bank, will make a front on Wa Street of 86 feet, can be purchased at reasonable price; and if the ground in rear through to Pine Street can be procured — concerning which inquiries are on foo it will be the best arrangement of which I ha yet heard for the accommodation of the Custom House & the Assay Office.

When at Washington I understood you to say that there was appropriation for purchasing property for an Assay office; and I suppose inquiries on the subject are only made with the view of making a communication to Congress at its ne session. If I am mistaken, please set me right, so that I may make the proper expl nations to the owners of property when making inquiries.

I have been so overwhelmed with applications for places in the Custom House that I have not yet been able to ~~form an opinion upon~~ investigate the merits of the proposed changes in the mode of rendering the quarterly accounts; but hope to do so within a few days.

I am Yours

Very respectfully

Greene C. Bronson

Collector

Hon. James Guthrie

Sec. Treas'y.—

New York June 2d. 1853

Hon James Guthrie,
Washington.

(Answered
4 June 1853)

Dear Sir,

We are informed by Prof R. S. McCulloh of Princeton New Jersey, with whom we have had some communication relative to the establishment of a private Refinery, for refining Calafornia Gold, in this City; that in a recent interview with you he was led to believe that the Assay Office in this City would be organized without a Refinery connected therewith. This fact would bear strongly upon the succeſs of a private undertaking, and you will confer a favor by informing us of the correctneſs of Mr. McCulloh's belief; and the purpose of the Govt. not to erect a Refinery here — or at least, not until the further action of Congreſs.

Yours Respectfully

Corning Co

New York
June 3d 1853

Dr Sir

It may be interesting to you to know that the building on the corner of Pine & Nassau Streets directly opposite the Custom House can be either rented or purchased - Would it not answer for the assay office? It is within 50 feet of the office of the Sub-Treasurer and large enough.

With great respect
Your friend
Sam. F. Butterworth

Hon.
Jas. Guthrie
Secy Treasy

In the matter of the
Assay office at New York

June 14. 1853

The Honorable James Guthrie
Secretary of the Treasury.

Sir.

Understanding that no site has yet been purchased or leased for the Assay Office about to be established in New York, & that some difficulty has been experienced in procuring a proper location, I beg leave to enclose a diagram of a plot belonging to me, upon which I am about erecting improvements, which I am advised is conveniently situated for such a purpose. Should the Government be unable at present to find a better site at a fair price, I am ready to erect immediately such buildings as they may require, & lease them for 5 or 10 years, or longer.

My Premises as you will see by a glance at the enclosed map, are in the most central part of the City, near Broadway, on the the line of the Harlem, Albany & New Haven Rail Roads, & but two blocks from the point of departure of the Cars on the Sixth Avenue Rail Road, & the Eighth Avenue Rail-road, which connect also with the Hudson River Rail Road. Canal Street already a business Street of no small importance is presently to be opened to East Broadway when it will become the second thoroughfare of New York -

The plot has a front of 92 feet on Canal Street. 70 feet on Elm Street & 73 feet on Walker Street, with a depth from Canal to Walker Street of 120 to 135 feet. The adjoining lots on Canal Street marked A. & B. could be also obtained if applied for immediately - & the balance of the block, could doubtless be obtained at rates varying from one fifth to one tenth of the prices likely to be asked of Government in the crowded vicinity of Wall Street -

May I beg the favour of a reply advising me whether there is

any

probability of Government having
occasion to clear the premises in question
with buildings to be erected by myself
in accordance with plans to be furnished
by them — & with liberty to the Government
to purchase if they should deem it ex-
pedient —

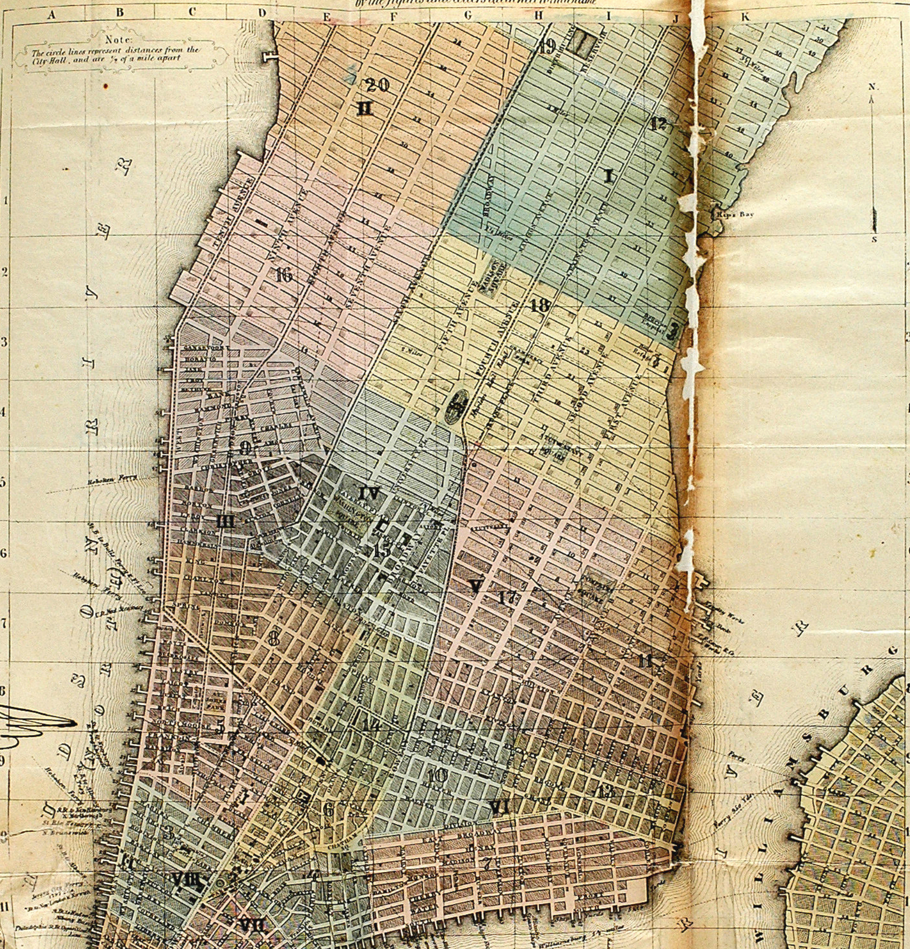
I have the honour to be

Sir,
Very Respectfully
Your most obdt Servant,
John Jay —

20 Nassau Street
New York. June 14. 1853.

CITY OF N

To instantly find out any Street in this Map, it is only necessary to look for its name in the alphabetical list at the sides and then refer to the square pointed out by the figures and letters attached to that name



A B C D E F G H I J K
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14
Note:
The circle lines represent distances from the City Hall, and are ½ of a mile apart
N.
S
HUDSON OR NORTH RIVER
EAST RIVER
BROOKLYN
WILLIAMSBURG
WALLABOUT BAY
Castle Garden
Kips Bay
U.S. Naval Hospital
Hoboken Ferry
Ferry to Williamsburg
Jersey City Ferry
Madison Square
Washington Square
Tompkins Square
Union Square
Stuyvesant Square
5 Miles
I II III IV V VI VII VIII
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

McDougal	
Madison	10 G
Maiden La.	12 C
Mangin	10 J
Marion	8 E
Market	11 F
Marketfield	13 B
Mercer	7 E
Minetta	6 D
Monroe	11 G
Montgomery	10 H
Moore	13 B
Morris	12 B
Morton	5 C
Mott	9 E
Mulberry	9 E
Murray	10 C
Nassau	12 C
New	12 B
Ninth st.	6 G
Nineteenth	3 F
Norfolk	9 G
North Moore	8 C
Oak	11 E
Oliver	11 E
Old Slip	13 C
Orange	10 E
Orchard	9 C
Pearl	11 E
Peck Slip	12 D
Pelham	11 G
Pell	10 E
Perry	4 C
Pike	11 F
Pine	12 C
Pitt	9 H
Platt	12 C
Prince	7 D
Reade	10 C
Rector	12 B
Renwick	7 C
Ridge	9 H
Rivington	8 G
Robinson	10 B
Rosevell	11 E
Rose	11 D
Rutgers	11 G
Scammel	10 H
Secondstreet	7 G
Sixth street	6 C
Seventhstreet	6 G
Sixteenth	3 F
Seventeenth	3 F
Sheriff	9 I
Smith	6 D
South	12 E
S'h. William	13 C
Spring	7 D
Spruce	11 D
Stanton	8 G
Staple	9 C
State	13 B
Stone	13 B
Stuyvesant	6 G
Suffolk	9 H
Sullivan	6 D
St. John's L.	8 C
Temple	12 B
Third street	7 G
Tenth street	4 E
Twelfth st.	4 E
Thirteenth st.	4 E
Twentieth st.	2 F
Thames	12 B
Thomas	9 C
Thompson	7 D
Tompkins	10 J
Troy	3 C
Vandam	7 C
Vandewater	11 D
Varick	8 C
Vesey	11 B
Vestry	8 C
Walker	9 E
Wall	12 C
Walnut	10 I
Warren	10 C
Washington	11 B
Water	13 C
Watts	7 C
West	11 B
W. Broadway	9 C
White	9 D
Whitehall	13 B
Willet	9 H
William	12 C
Wooster	7 E
York	8 D

PLACES

Abingdon	4 C
Albion	7 G
Amity, Laurens st.	
Astor	6 F
Battery	13 A
Bowl'g. Gr'n.	13 B
Brevoort, 10th st.	
Carroll, Bl'ker st.	
City Hall	10 D
Clinton	5 F
College	10 B
Decatur	6 G
Depau, Bl'ker st.	
Exchange	12 C
Franklin Sq.	11 D
Hanover Sq.	13 C
Irving	4 G
Lafayette	6 F
Lenox, 22d street	
Leroy, Bl'ker st.	
Leyden	5 G
Livingston	5 H
Madison	2 G
Park	10 C
Park Row	11 C
Randall	5 F
Rutgers	11 G
Rutherford	4 H
St. Marks	6 H
Stuyvesant	6 G
Stuyves't Sq.	4 H
Tompkins	6 I
Trinity	12 B
Union	4 G
University	5 F
Varick	6 D
Washington	6 F
West do.	5 D
Waverly	5 E
Wesley Mulby st.	

Hamilton	11 F
Hammond	4 C
Hancock	6 D
Hanover	13 C
Harrison	9 B
Henry	10 G
Hester	9 E
Horatio	3 C
Hoboken	7 B
Houston	6 E
Howard	9 E
Hubert	8 C
Hudson	7 C
Jacob	11 D
James	11 E
James Slip	11 E
Jane	3 C
Jay	9 B
Jefferson	11 G
Jersey	7 F
John	11 C
Jones	5 D
King	6 C
Laight	8 C
Laurens	7 E
Leonard	9 D
Lexington A.	2 H
Leroy	5 C
Lewis	10 I
Liberty	11 B
Lispenard	8 D
Ludlow	9 G

C. Magnus, Lith. N.Y.

COMPLETE MAP OF THE CITIES OF NEW YOR

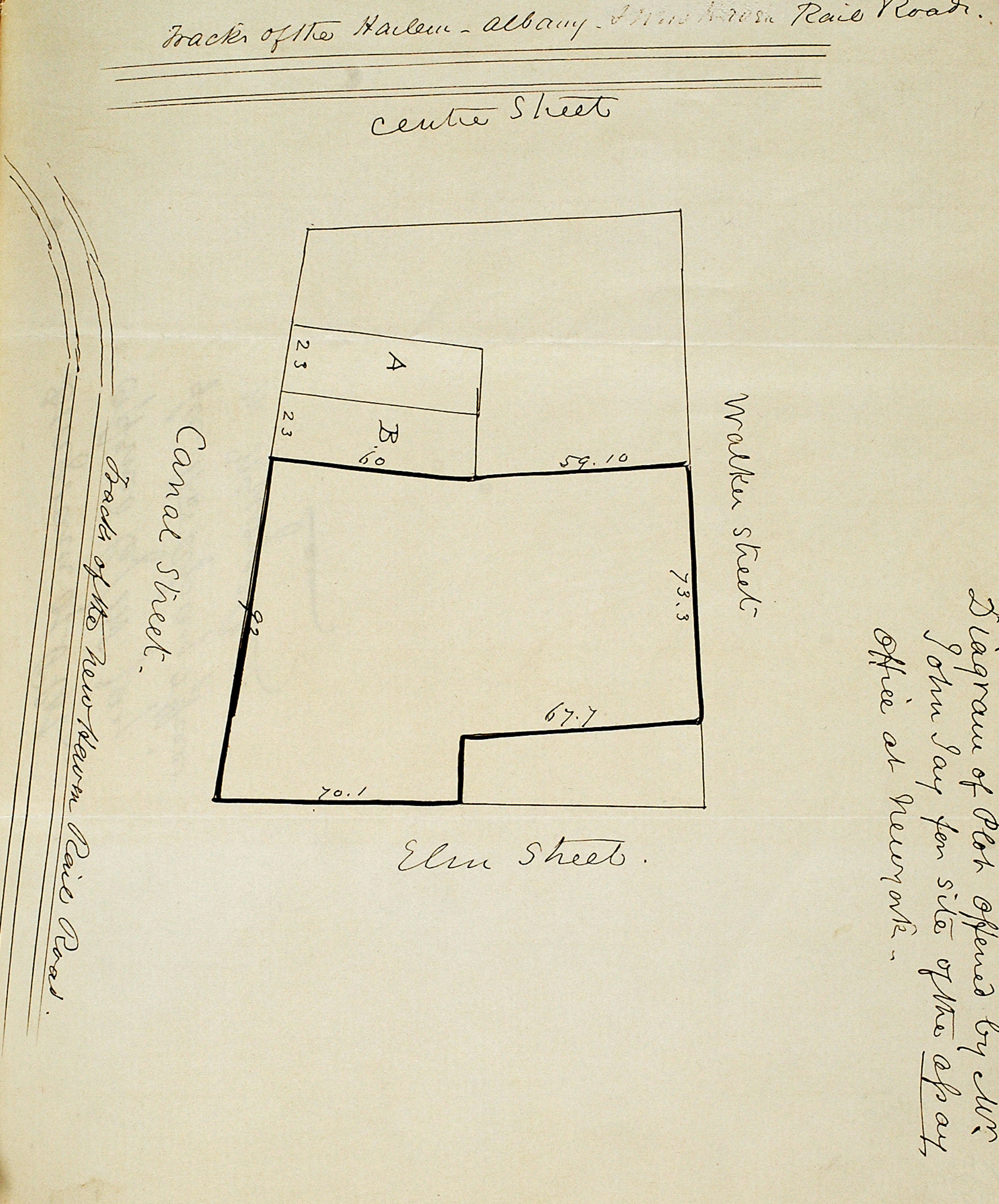
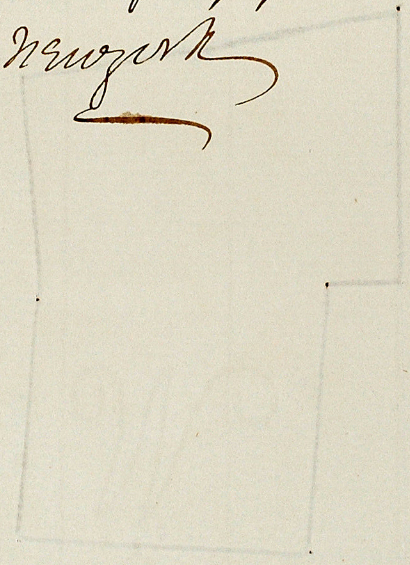

Tracks of the Harlem - Albany - & New Haven Rail Road.
Centre Street
A
B.
23
23
60
59.10
Walker Street
73.3
92
67.7
70.1
Canal Street.
Tracks of the New Haven Rail Road.
Elm Street.

Diagram of Plot offered by Mr. John Jay for site of the Assay Office at New York.

Diagram of Plot
offered by Mr. Jay
for the Assay office
in New York



New York 14 June 1853

John Jay

Offers property
for Assay office

file

Sent to Mr Bronson
16 June 1853

Enclose Copy
to Mr Bronson
& request him
to ascertain
the [illegible]
eligibility of the
proposed — also
to report as soon
as may be price
of the Church
property

Answer to Mr Jay
& request him to
see Mr Bronson on
the subject

Letters written as
above
June 16/53
C. A.

Guthrie

547

WASHINGTON RESTAURANT
NO. 15
NASSAU ST
N.Y.
NEXT TO
CORNER OF PINE.
HENRY E. RIELL.

N York June 17. 1853.

Sir, If the Govt. is in want of a Locality for the Assay Office. I have the property known as Nos 13 & 15 Nassau Street — (N west Corner Pine St. Opp the Custom House), formerly used as a Public Store.

The Frontage on Nassau St. 36 × 7
" Rearage ——— 37 × 3
In depth north Side 80 × 4
" " South " on Pine St 80 —

I am willing to alter the two Buildings into one, and rent it

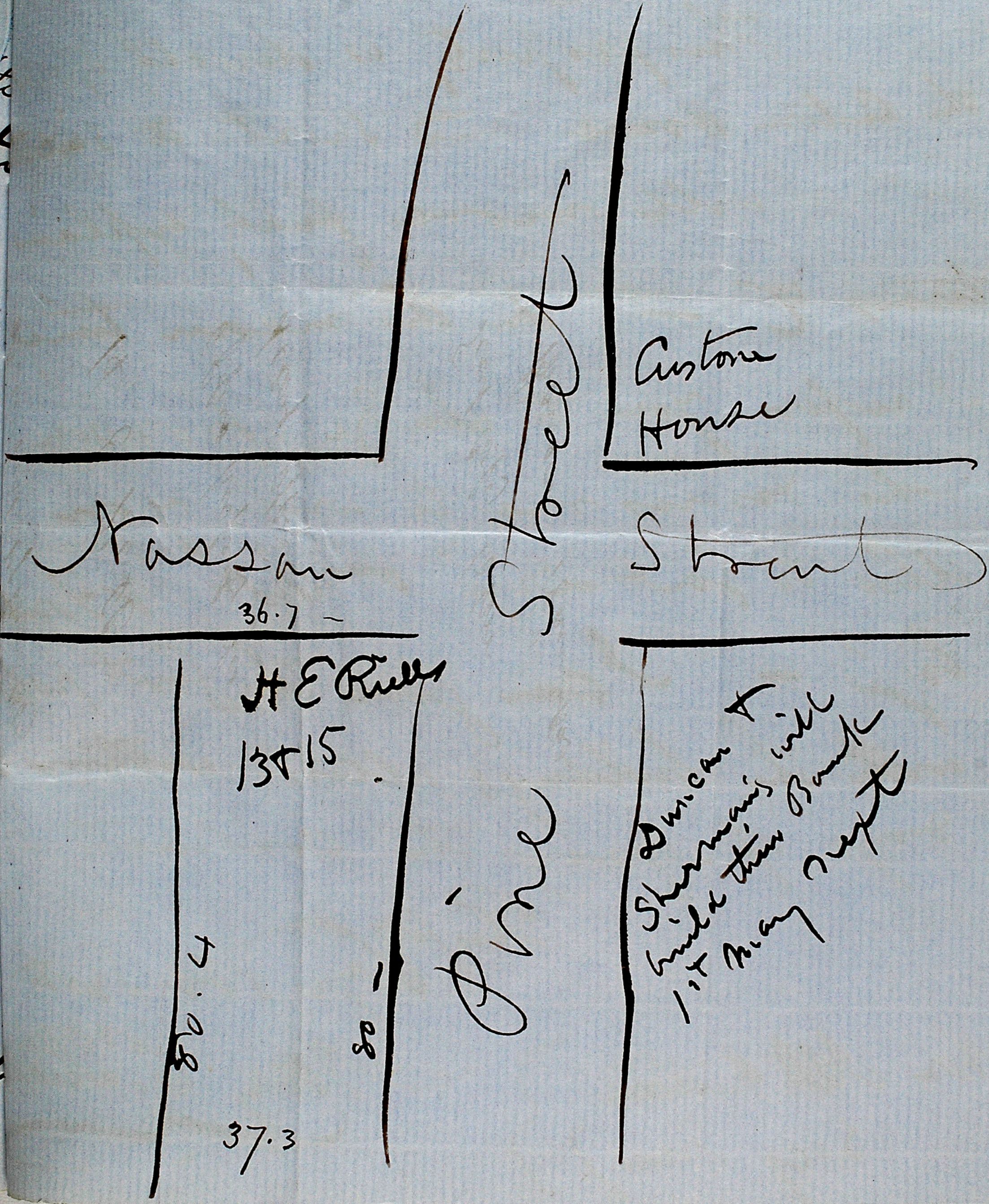
for ten years ~~at $10,000 per an~~
or I am willing to sell —

This property is directly opposite the Custom House and should it suit the Govt, I will more fully explain terms &c — In the mean time I refer you to Judge Bronson who desires me to write you, Also to Genl Dix, & Mr I. V. Fowler Esqr — I can give the Govt poss- with the buildings altered within 6 days of signing the contract —

Respy Yours obt Servt

Hon Jas Guthrie }
Secy Treas }

Henry E. Riell


Custom House
Nassau Street
Pine Street
36.7
H E Ruell
13 & 15
80.4
80.1
37.3
Duncan & Sherman's will build their Bank 1st May next

New York 17 June 1853

Bank of the State of New York
July 21 1853

Sir

I have had the honor of receiving your letter under date of the 18th inst.

Under all the circumstances I believe the Board of Directors of this Bank would be willing to let the property alluded to at $28.000 pr Annum for say 15 years, with the priviledge of the Government taking the property for $280.000 at any time within 18 months, with interest at the rate of 6 per cent pr Annum, and cancel the lease.

Of course the Bank would be obliged to lease or purchase elsewhere, and at the end of the 15 years might not find a purchaser without selling at much less than the present estimated value, but in obtaining the $28.000 pr Annum the surplus over the interest would be deemed by the Bank as an equivalent to a sale at $280.000. It is very likely the Bank of Commerce might place their ground and building at $250.000 & would deem a rent of $25.000 pr Annum about an equivalent to a sale for the price mentioned which would make the entire cost $530.000. for the property.

I have named 18 months with the view of the two Sessions of Congreſs.

You mention that "hoping if the Ban property is for sale that something like its fair value would be taken". in reply, I beg leave to state, that the Bank property was not considered for sale, but the proposition was brought before the Board to tak down the present building, rebuilding to cover the entir ground, having portions to let & bringing in say $30.000 per Annum, besides giving as good accommodat as the Bank now has.

On examining the plans I stat to the Board that further accommodations for the Custom House, Aſsistant Treasurer & Aſsayer Office wo be indispensable & there would be no other place so desirable – prior therefore to our making a contract to build & for each Bank to lay out $100.000 or $125.000 it should be offered to the Treasury Depar for the use of the Government.

I rather regret having proposed the Sale to the Government, as I do not wi to get a price that might be considered extravagant & am of opinion that the Bank could do better by improving the property than to sell for leſs than $280.000.

I feel anxious that the Treasury Departmen should arrange with the Banks, for then the Aſsay Office could be commenced very soon, and the enlargement to the Custom House effected

Very Respectfully
your obt Servant.
C W Lawrence
Prest

To the Hon.
James Guthrie
Secretary of the Treasury

Astor House 23 July 1853

My Dear Sir

I am in negotiation for the purchase of a House and lot the best in the city for the Assay office. The House is on Broadway near the Park and can be easily & cheaply altered to answer your purposes. It is seventy five feet front on Broadway - one hundred & seventy five feet deep and one hundred & twenty five feet rear facing Cross street - I send this hasty note in advance as it will take me until the middle of the week to complete my arrangements as there are several tenants on the premises. My proposition will better give you immediate possession, so that you can have it in operation by the meeting of Congress.

Your friend
Geo N Sanders

N York August 22d 1853

Dear Sir

I take the liberty to inform you that a plan is on foot here to prevail upon the Government to purchase Dr Spring's Church in this City for an assay office these "Vampires & Hyenas" have destroyed & desecrated every thing for the gratification of their pride & avarice & the ground which they now wish to impose upon you reeks with decay & decaying bodies which have been deposited there for 20 years before the revolution not only the grave yard so called is filled but the church underneath & the streets on each of three sides to the centre are perfect catacombs in which sleeps the best blood of the revolution if these departed patriots find no protection from the Government which they assisted to establish then their bodies or rather ashes will be scattered to the winds of heaven as the experience of the last several years has shown has been the fate of all those whose cemetery have been made merchandize or if you please the house of prayer has been made a ~~se~~ den of thieves by refusing to encourage such a shameful plan you will greatly oblige the friends of the departed who constitute a great many citizens

New York, October 31st 1853.

Honorable James Guthrie
Secretary of the Treasury

Sir.

When I was at the Mint in Philadelphia a short time ago, Col. Snowden informed me that it would be necessary to import some instruments for the Assay Office in New York, & that I ought to order them forthwith. It will also be necessary to procure other instruments in this country. I shall need as full a set as is used in the Assay Department of the Philadelphia Mint. Please inform me, whether, with the advice of Director Snowden I shall take the proper steps for procuring the articles alluded to.

Very respectfully
Your obedient Servant
John Torrey.

(Unofficial)

Newport R.I. 4th Sep 1853.

Hon James Guthrie
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington

Dear Sir.

Subsequently to my having this pleasure on the 2nd inst at Phil.a I had an interview with Mr Snowden, the Director of the Mint. From him I learned your wishes as to additional machinery & facilities for the Branch Mint of San Francisco, to enable it coin *silver* as well as gold. Furthermore, that I should construct & furnish the requisite apparatus for separating or parting the gold & silver.

My proposition, in accordance with the above, has I presume, been submitted to you.

I would respectfully suggest to you that the *process* recommended by the Mint, known as the "*Sulphuric Acid*, or *French process*".

however well understood by the Officers of the U S Mint, has never been in practical operation in the United States, and although it is generally conceded to be on all accounts the most economical,- if not the only practicable process- that can be safely adopted in Californi would it not be as well to have the system tested before its final adoption?

The "Melter & Refiner" of the San Francisco branch, whoever he is to be, should devote at least three months to the study of this process at the Phil^a Mint, where he can have every facility afforded him with the valuable counsel of Proff Booth in experimenting and perfecting his system.

Proper and efficient apparatus can easily be built, but its adequacy can not be relied on until some data can be ascertained from actual experiment.

Another consideration invites prompt

action in this matter- these Experiments should be made, if not *by*- at least in the presence of the Melter & Refiner of the San Francisco branch, and he would materially relieve the Director and other Officers in Phil^a. whose duties are necessarily arduous, and required elsewhere.

I beg to apologize for my seeming impertinence in asking your attention to matters in which I certainly have no pecuniary interest.

Very respectfully
Your obt St

Jos. R. Curtis

I am temporarily absent from Phila & expect to return there in a few days